



Bnt
39^m

John Fenn

Original Letters

1794

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE

OF THE MASSACHUSETTS

AND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



MASSACHUSETTS

1794

Printed by G. B. and J. Robinson in Boston, 1794.

Original Letters,

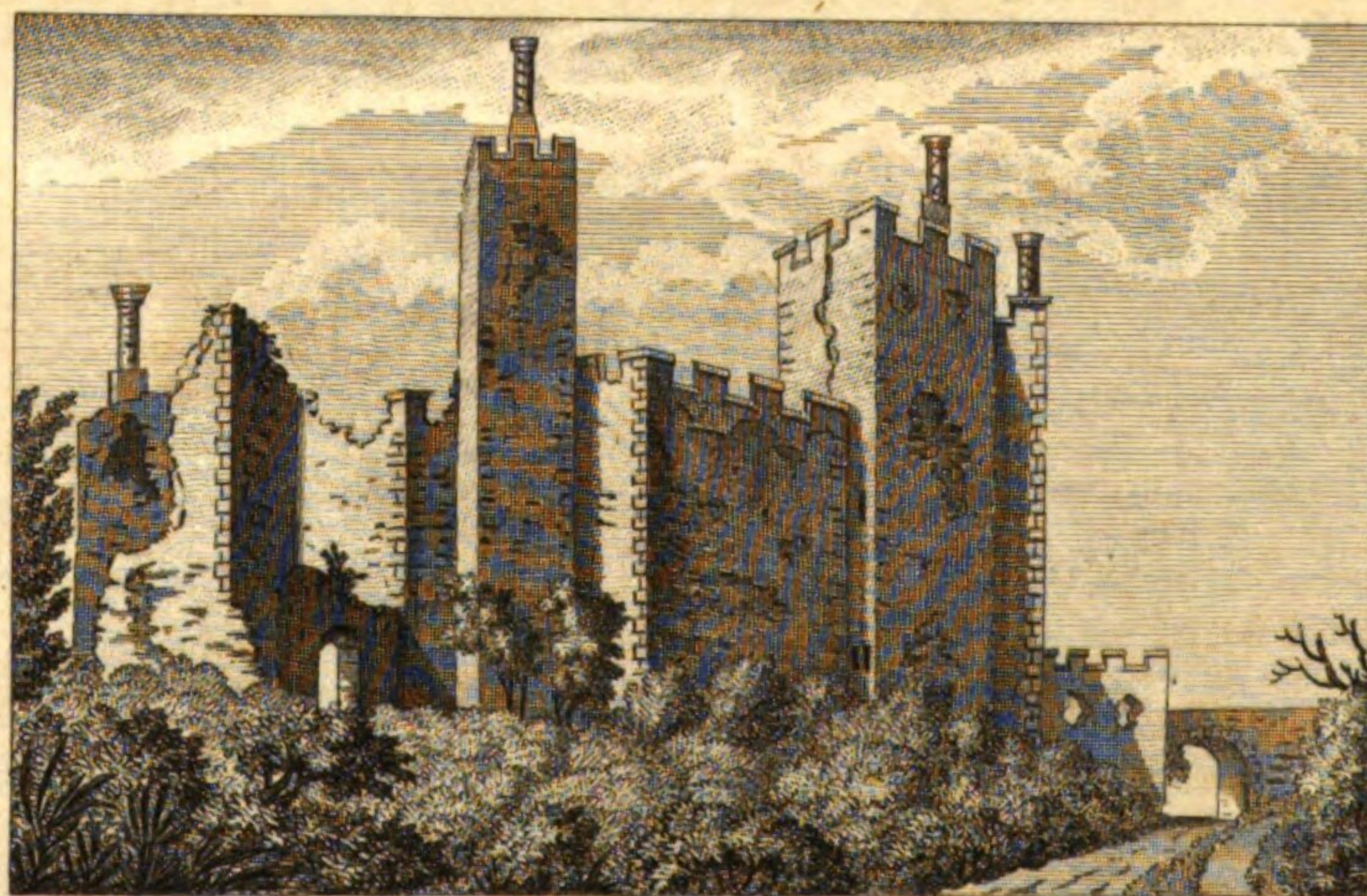
WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

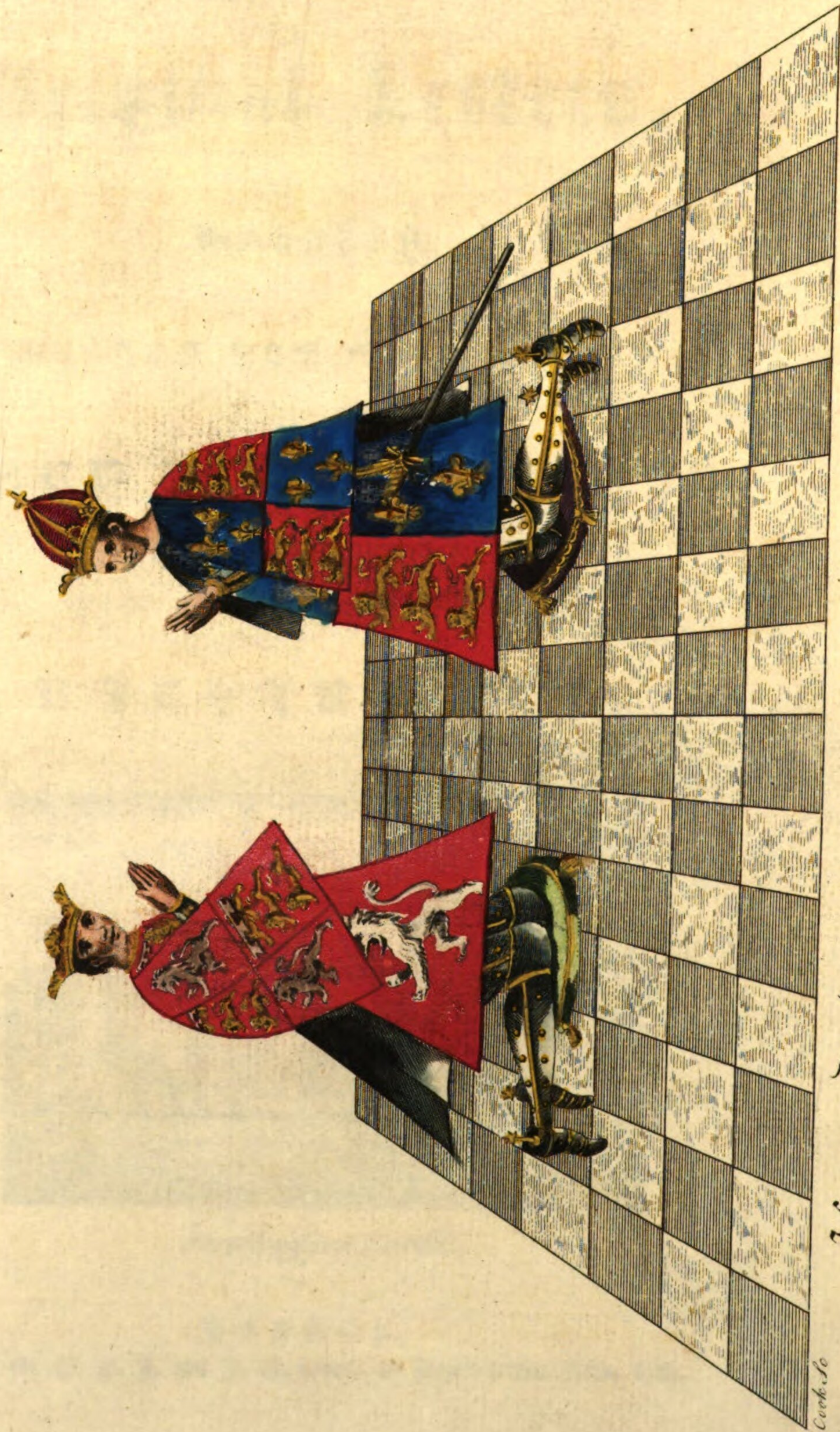
RICHARD III.



Framlingham Castle,

LONDON,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Paternoster-Row, 1789.



Johannes Dux de Breosfolke

Henricus vi

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

A N D

RICHARD III.

By various Persons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

C O N T A I N I N G

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody,
but hitherto dark, PERIOD of our HISTORY;

A N D

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewise
the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE:

Digested in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;

W I T H

NOTES, Historical and Explanatory;

A N D

Authenticated by Engravings of AUTOGRAPHS, FAC SIMILES, PAPER MARKS,
and SEALS.

I N F O U R V O L U M E S.

By Sir JOHN FENN, Knight, M.A. and F.A.S.

“Tempora mutantur.”

“Littera scripta manet.”

V O L. III.

L O N D O N,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, in Pater-noster-Row.

MDCCLXXXIX.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.



HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

RICHARD III. AND RICHARD IV.

By various Persons of Rank or Consequence.

CONTAINING

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody
but hitherto dark, Period of our History;
not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewise
the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE;
Digested in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

NOTES, Illustrations, and Appendix; OLD DEER

Authenticity of Engravings of Autographs, Fac-similes, Paper Marks,
and Seals.
IN FOUR VOLUMES.

By Sir JOHN FRY, Knight, M.A. and F.R.S.

By Sir JOHN FRY, Knight, M.A. and F.R.S.

"I have fought much."

VOLUME III.

LONDON.

Printed for G. J. and J. Robinson, in Paternoster-Row.
MDCCCLXXXV.

P R E F A C E.

TH E Editor hopes that the reception, which the former volumes of Original Letters met with, will be thought a sufficient reason for the appearance of these; he apprehends, indeed, that he should seem deficient in respect to the public if he did not continue his labours, as he has not only been honoured with Royal approbation, but likewise with marked attention from several of the first characters for literary productions, who have expressed their wishes that he should proceed to publish the Original Manuscripts still remaining in his possession.

The Editor's
reasons for
continuing
the work.

In compliance, therefore, with such flattering inducements, accompanied with the pleasure which he receives from studies and researches of this kind, he now sends these volumes from the press.

When the Editor made his former arrangement, he chiefly selected those letters which treated of public affairs and persons of consequence, conceiving, on the first production of this distant correspondence, that such were most likely to interest the reader in their favour; though he acknowledges himself so much of an antiquary, as

The former
volumes con-
tained chiefly
public letters.

to hold in equal estimation those letters which relate to the private occurrences of these ancient times, of which our ideas are far from being either clear or satisfactory, he therefore ventured to mix a few of the latter; and from these specimens some of his literary friends, and many learned individuals, to whose persons he is altogether a stranger, have pressed him to form the remaining ones for the Public on the same plan which he before pursued.

These Letters
being more
private, are
more difficult
to elucidate.

The Letters which compose these volumes, consist of such as were written in the reign of Henry VI. and in the first ten years of that of Edward IV. and being of a more private nature than those before given to the public, the Editor has found much greater difficulty in ascertaining persons, dates, and events, than he did in preparing those which treated of well known transactions; he has, however, done his utmost to render them intelligible, and therefore hopes that his criticising reader, instead of carping at small faults, will grant a proper indulgence for what he has endeavoured to do; assuring him that such remarks and observations as have been sent by some of the most able critics in this line of study, as well as those offered in the various periodical publications, which he has had an opportunity of seeing, shall

Observations
on the former
volumes at-
tended to.

not be disregarded, should his former volumes ever reach a third Edition, whenever, in his opinion, they have elucidated expressions, or ascertained facts, either not fully, or improperly explained by him; and as the observations have been in general made with politeness and candour, the Editor takes this opportunity of returning his thanks to the several authors.

The contents of many of these Letters will perhaps appear trifling to common readers, but to those who wish to enter into the domestic and private life of the writers, the various little traits and distinguishing features of this distant period will be at least amusing, if not instructive.

Trifles of distant periods amusing.

Modern Original Letters are frequently written with a view to publication; and, instead of being the natural and unadorned dictates of the mind, are studied essays. These letters were most of them written before the invaluable art of Printing reached this kingdom, centuries before the idea of publishing familiar correspondence occurred, and therefore, independent of the information they may afford, are estimable, as being the genuine effusions of the writers, whose conversation we almost seem to hear as we read their letters; natural and prompt in expressing the sentiments of hearts glowing with the

These preferable to modern Letters.

subject on which they are written, they may with propriety be considered as original pictures of the mind taken off by the best pencil,—that of *Nature* herself.

Private life
displayed and
contrasted
with the pre-
sent times.

In these Letters the private life of individuals is laid open ; we become acquainted with family occurrences ; we see the transitions from joy to sorrow, from pain to pleasure.

Here we view the attention, not only of the rich and powerful Barons, but also of the Gentry, to those under their patronage ; their disputes about their several properties, with the violent means in use to secure them on the one hand, and to recover them on the other, meet the eye ; their contests in the Courts of Law, and the method of conducting them, are often pointed out ; and we are happy in being told of, without experiencing, the partiality of Judges, Sheriffs, and Juries.

The careful and considerate often solicit our observation, whether we attend to the fond husband consulting the ease, convenience, and happiness, of his wife ; or whether we follow the dutiful and affectionate wife, when pursuing the various directions of her husband for his advantage, or for their mutual benefit and pleasure.

The anxiety of parents will next claim our attention, when the welfare or education of their children becomes
the

the subject of this correspondence; their schemes for bringing them forward in the world, by which either their interest, their property, or their honour, is concerned, are made known to us; we insensibly take a part in their projects and designs; we become pleased at seeing them attended with success, and feel concern for their disappointments.

When we read of proposals offered from one family to connect itself with another by the matrimonial alliances of their children, we pleasingly compare in our minds the engaging person of the son, with the lively, animated, and beautiful, form of the daughter; we consider the intended bridegroom as one distinguished for his general knowledge of those matters which become his rank or station in the community, for his prowess in the field of battle, for his gallantry in the achievements of chivalry, for his activity in the chase, or for his adroitness in the robust sports and pastimes of the age.

The future bride affords us pleasure, when we contemplate the useful and engaging accomplishments of her education, consisting in the general knowledge of domestic affairs, in works of the needle, where use, strength, and beauty, vie with each other for our preference, in the management of her palfry, and in the grace and alertness of
her.

her movements in the sprightly dance. In imagination we see her at the wedding of a friend, at the birth of an heir to an illustrious family, or at the universal festivities of Christmas, attending her parents to partake of those social enjoyments always allotted to events of this kind. On like joyful occasions when the ancient and spacious mansion of her father receives his dependants, his friends, and his near and dear relative connexions, to partake in his hospitable hall those pleasures which always were and always will be agreeable to youth; there, unconscious of her attractions, we view her standing forth conspicuous, her person, her dress, her address, animate the general meeting, by giving pleasure to her youthful companions, and by affording the most heartfelt delight to her fond parents and relations, in thus, as it were, seeing themselves revived in their innocently gay and virtuous descendant.

Reflections of
the Editor.

Such are the thoughts which have occurred to the writer from his examination of these letters, and there is no doubt but the reader will participate in them; at the same time considering them as the pleasing reveries of such, as, reflecting on ancient manners with a view to their own happiness, congratulate themselves that the present moment is their own; that not only
those

those whom they thus see in the recollection of times long past, have been for ages at rest in the grave, but that their children's children have likewise mouldered away, and returned to their native earth.

Though fond of ancient story, though willing to be, in idea, transported to scenes of ancient times and ancient manners, the Editor wishes to infuse into his reader a proper value for the age in which Providence has placed him, and being contented with the good he enjoys here, to live so, that he may look forward to greater good hereafter.

The Editor from his infancy was always particularly pleased with that paper in the Tatler (No. CIV. vol. II.) where the merry meeting at the house of a friend in a country village was interrupted by the entrance of the Sexton of the parish church in a sort of surprise, informing the company that, as he was digging a grave in the chancel, a little blow of his pick-ax opened a decayed coffin in which were several written papers; the curiosity of the party was raised, they adjourned to the spot, and discovered a parcel of letters, which had been deposited in the grave of a Lady whose daughter was then present.

The Letters contained in these volumes have, as it ^{Antiquity and value of these Letters.} were, lain in the grave for centuries, and no descendant of

of less than a tenth generation could have been present when they were produced; they are, therefore, relics highly valuable, and the Editor hopes worthy the attention of any company, who may adjourn to peruse them in their closet.

Descendants
from the
writers of
them.

The respectable descendants of many of the individuals, who are parties in this correspondence, are at this moment living, some ennobled by titles, and exalted by deserved honours; others holding the first rank amongst the Gentry, and, either by their public services in the Senate, by their less public exertions as magistrates, or by their private kindneses as friends and patrons, are at this day setting an example worthy to be imitated by those who shall hereafter succeed them; the Editor could with pleasure here produce a list of persons in the County of Norfolk only, to whom he has the honour of being known, fully confirming the above observations.

The present
age often de-
preciated by a
comparison
with former
ones.

The Writers of these Letters and their Contemporaries had their joys and their sorrows; they, no doubt, harassed by civil wars and various other calamities, looked back upon times then passed, and spoke of them as far preferable to their own; we are too apt to revert to distant periods, and form notions of advantages then possessed, of which we fancy ourselves deprived, and to depreciate

depreciate the happiness in our own power, not properly considering the innumerable improvements in every useful art and science which we enjoy; let us therefore not only learn to be contented, but let us rejoice, that in this happy island we have for more than a century been free from plagues, pestilence, and famine, and during that period have likewise been almost free from civil wars, the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 having been weak, and of short continuance, and not productive of those horrible slaughters which ever attended the bloody contentions between the White and Red Roses.

It is not from a partial perusal of a few of these Letters that the manners of the times can be developed; for though every Letter may contain some trait of public manners, or of private life, it will be sometimes too faint alone to make an impression, from which any general ideas can be formed; it must be from a careful examination of them, and by comparing one with another, that the then prevailing manners can be properly ascertained.

Amongst these Letters the Reader will find several papers interspersed relative to the manners of the times, particularly the Articles proposed by the Earl of Warwick to the Lords and Privy Council for their consent, by which he might have a proper authority, under their sanc-

Manners how
displayed.

Curious pa-
pers inter-
spered a-
mongst the
letters.
Articles of
the Earl of
Warwick.

tion, for the management and education of the minor King, Henry VI. These Articles are drawn up with accuracy and judgment, and though few in number, yet they contain much excellent matter, and shew the caution, prudence, and address, of the Nobleman appointed Governor to his Majesty.

Sir J. Fastolf's
account.

Those papers likewise containing Sir John Fastolf's account of the monies due to him for his services and expences both at home and abroad, were thought too curious to be omitted.

Wardship.

In several of these Letters the steps taken to acquire the wardship of minors are mentioned, from which the reasons for obtaining such will often appear.

Elections.

In many of them Election disputes make no inconsiderable figure, and the reader may sometimes fancy himself at a contested election in modern times, surrounded by the different parties of the several Candidates.

Physic.

Medicine is in some of them touched upon, though but slightly; and in others Physicians of eminence and skill are mentioned.

Style of
Ecclesiastics.

From the Letters written by Abbots and Priors, and particularly from those by Friar Brackley, we may form an opinion of the style of writing adopted by the Ecclesiastics of that age; his Sermon likewise will throw some light

light upon the divinity and rhetorical powers of the famous Preachers of that period, and of the manner in which religious discourses were framed for the instruction of the audience.

Those curious Letters containing an account of the destruction made at Hellefdon by the Duke of Suffolk's party, and of the regular siege of Caister Castle by the Duke of Norfolk's retainers, acquaint us not only with the ferocious disposition of the times, but exhibit an exact system of attack and defence; hence too we learn the reasons why our ancestors so well secured their old manor-houses, making many of them complete fortified castles.

Attacks upon
Hellefdon
and Caister.

The contemplative mind of the Historian has here a wide field for reflection; the claim set up to give a pretence to the siege of Caister by the Duke of Norfolk, the commanders and forces employed in the attack, the address and spirit of the besieged, their surrender, and the arts made use of to induce the widows of those killed during the siege to bring their appeal, will all pass in review before him, and form a perfect picture of men and manners.

When we read of the Lancastrians as rebels and traitors, let us consider that they were still adhering to a family which in lineal descent had afforded three succe-

Lancastrians
called rebels,
&c.

five Sovereigns to the throne, who had filled it for more than sixty years. Edward's claim was certainly prior to their's and legal, but from so long a possession the nation in general must have regarded the Henries as their lawful Sovereigns.

Various mat-
ters treated
of.

There are few matters either of a public or a private nature relative to the government of the state, or to the management of individuals, but, in one or other of these Letters, something concerning them may be collected; to be more particular would be to give in this Preface the epitomised contents of the Letters themselves, which the Editor strives to avoid; he wishes to leave every reader to think and to draw conclusions in his own way; the Letters will furnish ideas, the reader therefore will modify and combine them as they shall strike his imagination.

Notice taken
of private
families.

The Editor in these volumes has been more desirous of giving some account of private persons than he before was of those high in rank, or employed in public stations; as in respect to the former, few anecdotes can be retrieved, and therefore the most scanty materials will give some degree of satisfaction to those, who wish to know something of every one here mentioned; wherever therefore any of the persons concerned in this correspondence are

are ancestors of surviving families, the descent to the present representative is endeavoured to be ascertained; for every one, however some may affect to despise birth and family, has a secret pride in being able to trace his lineage back to distant progenitors; and this becomes a laudable pride, when it prompts men to act in such a manner as not to disgrace those from whom they claim this distinction.

That the Reader may the better enter into the spirit and design of these and the preceding volumes, it is recommended to him to read over that part of the History of England containing the reigns of those Princes, who filled the throne during the period in which these Letters were written; as such a refreshing of his memory will throw light upon many of the Letters, and increase the pleasure arising from their contents.

If in this collection some few letters be given relative to amours in low-life, where the language is perhaps vulgar, it is hoped, as such natural occurrences form a part of the character of the age, that the reader will excuse their insertion.

The circumstance of many of these Letters being concluded "in haste" arises most probably from the uncertain mode of conveyance, which often depended upon

History to be
consulted.

Occurrences
in low life.

Conveyance
of letters.

some person unexpectedly calling, who was going to the place, to which the writers wished to send them.

Chronological Index.

For the ease and convenience of the reader at the end of the Third and Fourth volumes, an Index of all the Letters contained in the preceding publication, is so arranged that the whole work may be read chronologically.

Plates.

It is hoped the execution of the plates will shew the Editor's desire to bring forward his work to advantage, as no expence has been spared either in the engraving or in the colouring of them.

Fewer references to the Notes accounted for.

The Reader will observe perhaps that there are not so many references to the notes in these volumes, as there were in the former, and may therefore suppose that the Editor has not taken as much pains in elucidating these Letters, as he did in explaining the preceding ones; this however he assures him is far from being the case; but he has in these volumes endeavoured as much as possible to form his remarks on each letter under one head; and by that means to lessen the number of references, as he thought they were rather blemishes in the page.

Reflections attributed to the Reader.

The many various and important changes, which this nation has undergone since the time when these Letters were written, will most undoubtedly strike the mind of the

the curious reader, and produce a train of thoughts on the vicissitude of worldly events.

He will reflect, that the Sceptre of this kingdom has been, since that period, wielded, at one time by the hand of tyranny and despotism; at another by that of bigotry and oppression; at a third by Princes formed for the good of their country: he will remember that the usurpations of papal tyranny, alternately resisted and submitted to, by violence suppressed, and by violence restored, have at length fled before the face of reason, and left us in quiet possession of our present pure establishment; and though our government, our laws, and our religion, gave way for a season to the levelling spirit of the republican and the fanatic; yet, through all this, he will with pleasure perceive a form of government, and a purity of religion, by imperceptible degrees, raising and strengthening itself; and in the end having surmounted every difficulty, fixing itself on a solid and permanent basis; he will then consider the present æra; and, if he be a wise man, think himself happy in living at a period, which in the future annals of this country will shine with a bright and unspotted lustre, reflected from the throne, not only on those who conduct the grand machine of government, but on those likewise who constitute the greatness of the whole,--the people governed.

After

Original
MSS. where
deposited.

After the publication of the First and Second volumes of these Letters, the Editor, in his advertisement to the second edition, informed the Public, that the **Original Manuscript Letters** were lodged for a time in the Library of the Antiquary Society, for general inspection.

During their continuance in that repository, it was intimated to the Editor that THE KING had an inclination to inspect and examine them; they were immediately sent to the Queen's Palace, with an humble request from the Editor, that, if they should be thought worthy a place in the Royal Collection, HIS MAJESTY would be pleased to accept them; to this request a most gracious answer was returned, and they are now in the Royal Library.

The Editor's
intentions.

The Editor intends to proceed through the remaining part of the reign of Edward IV. to give the few Letters, which he possesses, written in that of Richard III. and likewise those that passed during the time that Henry VII. filled the throne, should he find, by the reception these may meet with, that the public taste continues favourable to his pursuits.

East Dereham.
St. George's Day,
April 23,
MDCCLXXXIX.
The Day of
General Thanksgiving
For the Happy Recovery
of our
Beloved Sovereign
GEORGE III.

J. F.

C O N T E N T S

O F

V O L. III.

H E N R Y VI. 1432—1460.

L E T T E R I.

Articles proposed by the earl of Warwick to the lords and council
for their approbation, as preceptor to king Henry VI.

29 November, 1432.—11 H. VI.

THE purport of them is, that he may have sufficient authority over the person of the king, for his improvement and correction.—That he may have power to retain or dismiss such servants, &c. as he shall think proper, under certain restrictions.—That in case of the king's sickness he may stand discharged.—That he may remove the king's person as circumstances may require.—That no speech be had with the king in private.—That the lords and council would inform the king of their assent to these articles.—That they would always be assistant to the earl in enforcing them, &c. — page 2

L E T T E R II.

William Dalling's petition to the Parliament, against Sir
William Paston.

1434.—13 H. VI.

Address to the commons.—Judges sworn not to take fees.—Sir William
takes rewards of divers towns, monasteries, and persons of consequence.—
He prejudices the king and his ward. - - - page 14

L E T T E R III.

Katherine, duchess of Suffolk, to John Paston, esq.

2 October, after 1434.—13 H. VI.

Desires that his place in London may be ready for his reception.—Stuff to be
sent.—Agreement performed, &c. - - - 16

L E T T E R IV.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

Trinity Sunday, after 1440.—19 H. VI.

Eleven hundred Flemings came up to Waxham, of whom were taken, killed,
and drowned, eight hundred.—J. Paston expected from Cambridge.—J. Ma-
ryot's matter, &c. - - - 18

L E T T E R V.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

28 September, 1443.—22 H. VI.

John Paston ill.—An image of wax to be offered.—Money sent to the fryers
to pray for him.—A pilgrimage to be taken to Walsingham and to St. Leonard's.
—J. and M. Paston's father at Beccles.—Garneys, &c. coming to hawk.—Her
affectionate care for her husband.—A girdle.—Diet recommended.—Their son
well, &c. - - - 20

L E T-

L E T T E R VI.

James Gresham, to Sir William Paston, knight.

30 January, 1443.—22 H. VI.

The chief justice sorry for Sir William's illness.—Was ill himself.—Had spoken to the lords to get them both excused from attending the assizes at East Grinstead.—Would endeavour to go part of the circuit by water, &c. page 26

L E T T E R VII.

John Gyney, to Sir William Paston.

February, before 1443.—22 H. VI.

Informs Sir William of what had passed between him and others concerning making good a title to some estates in Honing and Walsham.—Green ginger of almonds.—Leech of Orwell, &c. - - - 28

L E T T E R VIII.

Agnes Paston, to Edmund Paston.

4 February, 1444.—23 H. 6.

Reminds him of his father's counsel.—Vicar of Paston.—Doles pulled up.—Corn at Trunch taken for rent to Gimmingham.—Sir William Paston's character.—Pit cast down.—His father's good intentions to Paston.—Size of joists.—Stansted church.—Foreign tidings, &c. - - - 32

L E T T E R IX.

John Hautein, clerk, to the Lord Chancellor.

About 1445.—23 H. VI.

Prays for counsel to be assigned him, as he could get none to plead against Agnes Paston.—Petitions for John Heydon, Thomas Lyttelton, &c. to be commanded to undertake his suits, &c. - - - 36

L E T T E R X.

Sir Roger Chamberlayn, to Agnes Paston.

15 September, after 1444.—23 H. VI.

Informs her of the conditions under which the manor of Walsingham had been
fold by her husband to his mother, &c. - - - page 38

L E T T E R XI.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

29 October, after 1444.—23 H. VI.

Sends him his father's blessing, that of all the Saints, and her own.—Advises
him to pursue worldly affairs with moderation.—His father's saying quoted.—
Her own reflections, &c. - - - 40

L E T T E R XII.

Sir John Fastolf, to Stephen Scroope.

30 October, between 1444 and 1454, 23 and 33 H. VI.

Sir John thanks him for his attention in writing to him, &c.—Sir Thomas
Howys summoned to London.—Desires Stephen Scroope to thank justice Yel-
verton, &c.—And wishes for the continuance of his favour in his matters, &c. 42

L E T T E R XIII.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

17 November, after 1444.—23 H. VI.

Conversation between her, Clement Spicer, and Waryn Herman, concern-
ing shutting up a road, and other matters, &c. - - - 44

L E T T E R XIV.

Sir Robert Williamson, to Agnes Paston.

After 1444.—23 H. 6.

Thanks her for her kind reception of him.—Complains of being sued for a
rescue of some person from the sheriff's officers, whom they had taken during
mass—Intends to abscond, unless she advises him to the contrary, &c. 48

L E T-

C O N T E N T S.

L E T T E R XV.

William Yelverton, to Sir John Fastolf.

After 1444.—23 H. VI.

Thanks Sir John for his kindnesse, &c.—Enemies to Sir Thomas Todenham, &c. to be put in comfort.—Fears that he shall be misrepresented to the king and lords.—Requests Sir John's good offices, &c. - page 50

L E T T E R XVI.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

April 1448.—26 H. VI.

Relates a long conversation between her and lady Morley, relative to a relief to be paid by J. Paston.—She cannot prevail with her to defer her claim.—Her mother Agnes goes and succeeds.—Farm barley.—Daniel out of favour with the king.—The marquis of Suffolk in great favour, and must not be spoken against.—Katharine Walsingham to be married.—John of Sparham in distress.—An outlawry.—Message to Bacton.—Gresham, &c. - 54

L E T T E R XVII.

Articles of impeachment against the duke of Suffolk.

February, 1449.—28 H. VI.

Invasion of this realm incited.—Marriage of his son.—Release of the duke of Orleans.—Invasion of Normandy.—Treachery as ambassador.—Betraying trusts.—Revealing state secrets.—Preventing peace.—Being a privy counsellor of France.—Obstructing our warlike measures.—Allies lost by his neglect, &c. 62

L E T T E R XVIII.

Robert, prior of Bromholm, to John Paston.

March, about 1449.—28 H. VI.

An invitation to go over the sea to the bishop, and so to the court.—Prepares secretly for his journey.—Requests J. Paston's assistance and advice.—Other men's advice.—Dispirited, and wishes to see J. Paston, &c. - 80

L E T-

L E T T E R XIX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

April, about 1450.—28 H. VI.

The lord of the manor of Swainsthorp to find an armed man in time of war forty days, for the defence of the castle at Norwich.—Yearly rent.—J. Paston's age, &c. — page 84

L E T T E R XX.

James Gresham, to John Paston.

19 August, 1450.—28 H. VI.

Account of proceedings between J. Paston and lord Molyns, relative to the disputes concerning the manor, &c. of Gresham.—Lords into Kent.—Oyer and Terminer into Norfolk.—Duke of Norfolk returned home.—Danvers a judge.—Cherburg taken.—Calais to be besieged.—Risings in Wiltshire, &c. 86

L E T T E R XXI.

Sir John Fastolf, to Sir Thomas Howys, clerk.

15 October, 1450.—29 H. VI.

Directions about the purchase of an estate.—Sir John will give 14 or 15 years purchase.—Wool, &c. — 92

L E T T E R XXII.

James Gresham, to John Paston.

About October 1450.—29 H. VI.

Informs him of his arrival in London.—The lord of York coming into Norfolk.—Calthorpe to be sheriff or knight of the shire.—The king removed from Westminster.—His men to attend him at the parliament.—Heydon's conversation with Yelverton concerning his indictment, and with Markham about his wife and lewd life.—Sir J. Fastolf desired to write to the king, and to recommend a sheriff.—The people discontented, &c.—Heydon's boasts, &c. 94

L E T-

L E T T E R XXIII.

John Damme and J. Gresham, to John Paston, esq.

11 November, 1450.—29 H. VI.

Sir William Oldhall chosen speaker of the parliament, and admitted by the king.—Oyer and Terminer.—Lord Oxford.—Lord Molyns spoke of J. Paston to the king.—J. Paston's presence required in London.—The dukes of York and Norfolk not arrived at London.—Sheriffs not yet appointed.—Bills to be put in, &c.

page 100

L E T T E R XXIV.

Sir John Fastolf, to Sir Thomas Howys, clerk.

4 December, 1450.—29 H. VI.

Sir John Sypton and others to be indicted at Beccles for forgery.—Sir John Buck and John Cole to be indicted for fishing Sir John Fastolf's ponds, destroying his mill, and taking his swans at Dedham, &c.

102

L E T T E R XXV.

John de Vere, earl of Oxford, to John Jermyn, sheriff of Norfolk.

2 January, 1450.—29 H. VI.

Had been at Norwich to hold sessions of oyer and terminer.—The commons in Norfolk and Suffolk discontented during the summer.—The sheriff partial.—Errors to be avoided.—The earl a friend to the shire.—Wishes to ease the commons, &c.

106

N U M B E R XXVI.

The speech of John, duke of Norfolk, against the duke of Somerset.

1450, or 1453.—29 or 32 H. VI.

Explains the pains he had taken to bring offenders against the state to justice by accusing the duke of Somerset, &c.—Answer.—Reply.—Proofs.—Justice required.—Lineage waived.—Bribes.—Some say the loss of Normandy and Guienne are trespasses only.—Captains beheaded.—L' Arbre de Bataille.—Laws of France and of England to be considered in his accusations.—If justice be not done, it shall be proclaimed through the realm.

108

L E T.

L E T T E R XXVII.

Thomas Howys to Sir John Fastolf.

9 May, 1451.—29 H. VI.

Partial proceedings at an Oyer and Terminer before Chief Justice Privot at Norwich and Walsingham.—Todenham, Heydon, &c. attended with large retinues.—Judge Yelverton's reproof to chief Justice Privot.—Lord Scales and Sir J. Fastolf enemies.—His feigned friends.—Advisers in his law business.—Hugh Fenn, &c.

page 116

L E T T E R XXVIII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

1 July 1451.—29 H. VI.

Difference likely to have arisen between lady Felbrigg, and J. Paston, from misrepresentation.—Dinner at Topps's.—Treacle a medicine in repute.—Sir Henry Inglos dead.—Sheriff not to be trusted, &c.

124

L E T T E R XXIX.

William Worcester, to John Paston.

7 July, about 1451.—29 H. VI.

The parson obliged to attend in London.—Sir J. Fastolf going thither.—Poynings pardoned.—Sir William Oldhall's process reversed.—The priest who accused lord Cromwell, &c. willing to confess.—John Edmonds blamed, &c.

128

L E T T E R XXX.

Sir John Fastolf, to Sir Thomas Howys, clerk.

23 September, 1451.—30 H. VI.

Delays in payment of a rent charge.—By that mean forfeited by the prior and convent of Hickling.—Sir John intends claiming the forfeiture, by the advice of his confessors, &c.—A wey of salt.—Rent of twenty acres of land, &c.

132

L E T -

L E T T E R XXXI.

John Bocking, to William Wayte.

2 January, between 1450 and 1454.—29 and 34 H. VI.

Tidings.—The king borrows money for his Christmas expences.—Princes offer to assist in the French wars.—The Chief Justice in expectation of an assault.—Commissions into Kent.—Offices accepted by persons of the Temple as excuses for residing from their wives.—Sir Thomas Todenham at the Tower Hill.—Expectations from Norfolk men, &c. - - - page 134

L E T T E R XXXII.

John de Vere, earl of Oxford, to John Paston.

28 December, between 1450 and 1455.—29 and 34 H. VI.

An action of debt brought for wages against a tenant of the earl.—He informs J. Paston of the particulars.—Requests his assistance in giving the jury a fair account.—Hopes they will act conscientiously, &c. - - - 138

L E T T E R XXXIII.

Sir John Wingfield, to John Paston, esq.

May or June, between 1450 and 1460.—28 and 38 H. VI.

Requests J. Paston to obtain leave from Thomas Radchiff, that his tenant may take away the wood-work for a house which lies in his wood.—“Joy of all your ladies, &c.” - - - 140

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Sir John Heveningham, knight, to Margaret Paston.

7 May, between 1450 and 1460.—28 and 38 H. VI.

Thanks her for good cheer.—Wishes her to take his cousin Anneys Love-day for a servant, or to permit her to board with her till he can provide a place, as she is not easy where she is, &c. - - - 144

x C O N T E N T S.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Alice Crane, to Margaret Paston.

29 June, between 1450 and 1460.—28 and 38 H. VI.

Enquiries after M. Paston's health.—Thanks.—Her lady had been ill, but was now well enough to return into che country.—Norfolk thread to wear about her neck, &c. - - - - - page 146

L E T T E R XXXVI.

Richard Calle, to John Paston.

29 December, between 1450 and 1460.—29 and 39 H. VI.

County-court at Norwich.—The Sheriff requested to produce the writ for election.—Insulted and his life threatened.—His escape.—Thrifty men going to complain to the king.—Lords at Beighton.—Rents falling.—Wishes J. Paston victory over his enemies, &c. - - - - - 150

L E T T E R XXXVII.

W. Wayte, to J. Paston.

6 October, between 1450 and 1456.—30 and 34 H. VI.

News.—Duke of York with the king.—Bill put up.—Sir William Oldhall's conversation with the king.—Western men would have slain the duke of York, and Sir William Oldhall.—Well-wishers to Sir Thomas Todenham, &c.—Directions how to have him and his adherents indicted and punished, &c.—Swaffham.—Members to be elected.—Cautions to be used.—Copy of the bill sent, &c. - - - - - 154

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

16 November, between 1444 and 1459.—23 and 38 H. VI.

Business in which her cousin Clere was concerned.—Transactions at Paston.—Benjamin White fined.—Sheriff's silver.—Law business.—Horwellbury rents.—Lady Boys has an estate to sell.—It is said that Sir J. Fastolf had sold Helleston to Boleyn.—Wishes he would sell estates for settlements for her younger children.—Duke of Norfolk reports that Sir J. Fastolf had given Caister to him.—Sickness at Norwich, &c. - - - - - 162

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXIX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

5 November, 1452.—32 H. VI.

Chardeqwaynes to be taken in a morning against bad air.—Her uncle Philip sick.—Jeffrey Boleyn to buy Blickling manor of Sir J. Fastolf for Heydon, &c.

page 168

L E T T E R XL.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

30 January, 1452.—31 H. VI.

Informs her of a conversation which had passed between her and his sister Elizabeth Paston, concerning an offer of marriage, wherein she discovers her opinion, and likewise that of her mother.—Master Brackle called.—Large sessions expected at Thetford.—Requests a neck ornament.—Her cousin Crane's matter, &c.

170

L E T T E R XLI.

. to John Paston.

21 February, 1452.—31 H. VI.

An act passed by the lords against the writer of this letter.—His wife imprisoned.—His daughter to be taken away.—His servants to be arrested.—Fears entries upon his estates.—Robert Clement arrested.—The writer's wife's danger from an untimely delivery.—The cardinal dead, &c.

174

L E T T E R XLII.

. to John Paston.

Between 1452 and 1454.—30 and 33 H. VI.

The duke of York, &c. to the king. (A copy.)

They complain of those about the king infusing doubts of their loyalty.—Inform him that they are coming in person to petition him, and to manifest their allegiance.—Hope the king will not be biased by their enemies.—Letter sent to the archbishop of Canterbury.—A copy inclosed to the king, &c.

178

L E T T E R XLIII.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

6 July, 1453.—31 H. VI.

Money matters.—Painful death of Philip Berney.—Sudden death of Sir John Heveningham.—Her cousin Clere's request.—Silk to be bought.—Horse ill, &c. - - - - - page 182

L E T T E R XLIV.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

6 July, 1453.—31 H. VI.

Rent for Newman's place in Norwich.—Stable to be made.—Deaths of Philip Berney and Sir John Heveningham.—Inventory to be made.—Household stuff wanted.—Little money to be had, &c. - - - - - 186

L E T T E R XLV.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

6 March, 1453.—32 H. VI.

Informs him of his wife's health.—Tells him that his sister wishes the match with sir William Oldhall to take place.—And says she shall have no objection if his lands be clear.—Parson of Marlingford's bond to be sued, &c. 188

L E T T E R XLVI.

John Clopton, to John Paston.

About 12 of April, 1454.—32 H. VI.

Thanks him for his good will towards him.—Jointure on J. Paston's daughter Elizabeth to be fulfilled.—The chamber.—Her board to be taken off her mother.—Business at Cavendish.—Crane's excuse.—Wishes to be with J. Paston soon, &c. - - - - - 192

L E T-

N U M B E R XLVII.

Agnes Paston, &c. and William Clopton, &c.

Marriage articles. — No date.

John Clopton to marry Elizabeth, the daughter of Agnes Paston. — Her fortune 400 marks. — Agnes Paston to bear the expences of the wedding feast, &c. — Settlements to be made on the father, son, and Elizabeth Paston and children, &c. - - - - - 196

L E T T E R XLVIII.

Thomas lord Scales, to John Paston, esq.

17 May, 1454. — 32 H. VI.

Requests him to deliver up some beasts, which he had impounded. — Will pay any lawful demand on that account. — Desires a day may be fixed for settling the matter in dispute, &c. - - - - - 200

L E T T E R XLIX.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

29 June, 1454. — 32 H. VI.

Her cousin Clere's conversation with Scroope. — Thinks him a proper match for her daughter. — Sir Henry Inglos wishes to have him for one of his daughters. — Money from Horwelberry. — A friar at suit with Agnes Paston. — To beware of him, &c. - - - - - 202

L E T T E R L.

Elizabeth Clere, to John Paston.

29 June, 1454. — 32 H. VI.

Informs him that Scroope had been to see his sister. — His account of his livelihood. — She thinks him a proper match for her cousin. — Speaks of Agnes Paston's cruel treatment of her daughter, and recommends a speedy marriage for her. — Fears least her mother's behaviour to her may make her do amiss. — Desires him to burn this letter, &c. - - - - - 204

L E T.

L E T T E R LI.

R. Dollay, to John Paston.

29 June or 28 Dec. 1454.—32 or 33 H. VI.

Sir Philip Wentworth, &c. going towards London with a large fellowship in armour.—They halt, and bend their bows.—The ward not with them, but one like him.—They make enquiries, &c. page 210

L E T T E R LII.

Edmund Grey, lord of Haſtyngs, &c. to John Paſton, eſq.

11 July, 1454.—32 H. VI.

Informſ him that he could provide a proper marriage for his ſiſter with a gentleman of blood, and of 300 marks livelihood.—Deſires to know whether he ſhould proceed with the treaty, &c. 214

L E T T E R LIII.

John Paſton, to Edmund lord Grey, &c.

15 July, 1454.—32 H. VI.

Returns him thanks for his attention to his ſiſter's marriage.—Informſ him that ſhe had had ſeveral propoſals.—That none ſhould be farther proceeded upon for a month.—That he can give no answer to any treaty till he knows the gentleman's name, &c. but wiſhes much to have his ſiſter married, &c. 216

L E T T E R LIV.

William Paſton, to John Paſton.

6 September, 1454.—33 H. VI.

Informſ him of lord Grey's converſation with Billing, about his ward.—Billing's advice to his ſiſter.—Sir J. Faſtolf's return.—Who intends to put an end to Scroope's addreſſes.—Crefſener talked of.—Lord chancellor, &c. not come to London.—Archbiſhop of Canterbury receives his croſs.—A prieſt arreſts W. Paſton.—A great peſtilence.—Harry Wilton ſaw the king.—Biſhop of Ely does his faith, &c. 220

L E T-

L E T T E R LV.

Sir John Fastolf, to John Paston.

11 November, 1454.—33 H. VI.

Sir John endeavours to obtain the wardship of Thomas Fastolf.—J. Paston's attention to it.—Sir John Fastolf's desire therein.—If the wardship can be obtained, a marriage to take place between the ward and a daughter of J. Paston.—The archbishop of Canterbury to be spoken to concerning the duke of Bedford's goods, &c. - - - - - page 224

L E T T E R LVI.

Thomas Howys, to John Paston.

13 November, 1454.—33 H. VI.

His master sir J. Fastolf pleased with what had been done concerning a ward.—Scheme of marrying him to one of J. Paston's daughters.—Their alliance with sir John Fastolf.—Jeffrey Boleyn wishes to obtain the ward for one of his daughters.—Writ of attain, &c. - - - - - 230

L E T T E R LVII.

Sir John Fastolf, to John Paston.

7 February, 1454.—33 H. VI.

Requests J. Paston to inform him what gentleman had used scornful words of him at a dinner in Norwich.—Says, he knew their meaning, and wished to be able to distinguish his friends from his foes, &c. - - - - - 232

L E T T E R LVIII.

John, Abbot of St. Benett's, to John Paston, esq.

17 March, 1454.—33 H. VI.

Invitation to dinner on St. Benett's day.—Wishes to talk with J. Paston on matters of consequence.—The church of Stokesby.—Peace to all parties, &c. 236

L E T

L E T T E R LIX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

March, 1454.—33 H. VI.

Entreats his forgiveness for something she had done to displease him.—A roll sent.—Herrings bought.—Windows, &c. - - - page 238

L E T T E R LX.

John Jenney, to John Paston, esq.

24 June, about 1455.—33 H. VI.

Relates a conversation with Howard, which the duke of Norfolk had unadvisedly repeated concerning J. Paston's application to be returned member for Norfolk.—Writ for Norwich.—Persons to be spoken to in J. Jenney's interest.—Wise men not desirous of being in this parliament, &c. - - - 240

L E T T E R LXI.

The earls of March, Warwick, and Salisbury, to all mayors, sheriffs, &c.

23 July, 1455.—33 H. VI.

Their attention to the king's peace.—Protection granted to sir Thomas Todenham, knight, John Heydon, &c.—An explanation of that protection to satisfy their friends, &c. - - - 244

L E T T E R LXII.

John, bishop of Lincoln, to John Paston, esq.

26 July, 1455.—33 H. VI.

Thanks J. Paston for his assistance given to his servant John Ode, and hopes that by the means of him and justice Yelverton, sir Thomas Todenham will settle matters with his said servant, &c. - - - 246

L E T-

L E T T E R LXIII.

John, duke of Norfolk, to the county of Norfolk.

About 1455.—33 H. VI.

Informs the county that he is come by the king's command to enquire into, and punish rioters, &c.—Says that the lord Scales and his adherents threaten those that shall inform.—Tells them that the power is and shall continue with himself, and that the king will be soon in Norfolk, &c. - page 248

L E T T E R LXIV.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

25 November, 1455 or 1460.—34 or 39 H. VI.

Her aunt Moundford desires J. Paston to procure twenty marks in London, to discharge the wardship of her daughter.—Robberies.—Thanks.—Daniel coming to Rising-castle.—A box enquired for.—Liveries, &c. - 252

L E T T E R LXV.

William Botoner, to John Paston.

6 January, 1455.—34 H. VI.

Good cheer at Caister.—W. Jenney coming.—Sir J. Fastolf's will to be made.—Difficulties concerning it.—Duke of Bedford's will not yet fulfilled.—Master Fylongley recommends peace.—W. Botoner fearful of giving his opinion, &c. - 256

N U M B E R LXVI.

Sir John Fastolf's accounts.

1455.—33 H. VI.

Sir John Fastolf's declaration of costs, &c. borne by him during his services in France, in taking, keeping, &c. various towns, castles, &c. - 260

NUMBER LXVII.

Sir John Fastolf's accounts.

1455.—33 H. VI.

A bill of debts due to sir John Fastolf from the king, for injuries, &c. suffered by him in England from the duke of Suffolk, &c.—And for losses and expences incurred in France by the non-payment of money due to him for the ransom of prisoners, and for the costs of keeping various towns, castles, &c.

page 268

LETTER LXVIII.

Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, to John Paston, esq. &c.

7 September, between 1455 and 1458.—34 and 37 H. VI.

Informs him that an appeal was sued for by sir Nichol Bowet, against one Robert Offord.—Desires him to entreat the sheriff of Norfolk not to proceed upon it.—A treaty to be taken, &c.

276

LETTER LXIX.

Henry Windsor, to John Paston.

May or June, between 1455 and 1459.—33 and 38 H. VI.

No novelties, except the king's going into Scotland, and the lord Wiltshire to be chancellor.—Reference to a conversation, &c.—Disputes with his master.—Desires J. Paston to ask the priest's opinion of some texts in the Gospel.—Character of sir John Fastolf.—Statute returned.—Sleeping time, &c.

278

LETTER LXX.

William Tailboys, to viscount Beaumont.

August, between 1455 and 1460.—33 and 39 H. VI.

Wishes his lordship's prosperity.—Hugh Wytham wounds and carries off a servant of W. Tailboys, and imprisons him.—Lord Welles takes him out of prison, and threatens to hang him.—Requests his lordship's assistance.—Offers his services.—The priest's information of lord Willoughby's, &c.—Intention to try and hang the servant.—Desires help from lord Beaumont to prevent it, &c.

282

LET-

LETTER LXXI.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

February, between 1455 and 1460.—34 and 39 H. VI.

Various indictments in Kent.—Sir Thomas Todenham's and Heydon's enemies in fear.—James Gloys's tidings, &c. - page 288

LETTER LXXII.

Dame Alice Ogard, to John Paston, esq.

30 March, 1456.—34 H. VI.

A dispute between lady Ogard and John Radcliff concerning the living of Attleborough.—She requests J. Paston's attendance with her council before master Popy, &c. on her behalf.—Her character of J. Paston, &c. - 290

LETTER LXXIII.

W. Botoner, to John Paston.

31 March, 1456.—34 H. VI.

Botoner going to London.—His anxiety about making a feoffment.—Spyrling talked with.—Sir John Fastolf's accounts ill kept.—Methods proposed for bringing them right again.—Auditors to be spoken to, &c. - 294

LETTER LXXIV.

W. Botoner, to J. Paston.

1 May, 1456.—34 H. VI.

Requests him to attend to Sir John Fastolf's affairs.—To see the accounts properly audited, &c.—Sir John's expences exceed his income.—Losses by merchandizing.—Lowis had been his auditor, &c. - 298

LETTER LXXV.

Agnes Paston, to John Paston.

8 March, 1457.—36 H. VI.

Informs him of the state of his wife and children.—A person taken off the shore at Paston by the enemies ships.—Pilgrims robbed, and taken, but set on shore again.—The sea ill kept.—Fearful for her own safety at Paston.—Alfon Crane's crimson coat, &c. - 304

LETTER LXXVI.

John Osbern, to John Paston.

August, between 1457 and 1460.—35 and 39 H. VI.

Conversation between John Osbern and the sheriff of Norfolk, &c. concerning juries.—Money left for the sheriff.—The sheriff's difficulties concerning the king and lord Molyns.—Osbern's address and perseverance.—His opinion of the sheriff, &c.—The duke of Norfolk at Ipswich.—Visits an esquire in his way to Framlingham, &c.

page 308

LETTER LXXVII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

Before 1459.—38 H. VI.

Desires him to buy some offensive weapons for the protection of his house.—Description of the means used to render houses secure.—Wickets, &c. to shoot and fire from.—A fellowship.—Things to be purchased for M. Paston and the children, &c.

314

LETTER LXXVIII.

W. Worcester, to John Paston.

2 September, before 1459.—38 H. VI.

Informs, that he will do as he has desired him, &c.—Requests not to be called master.—His wages small and not advanced.—To be provided for at another's expence.—Tells him he writes to make him laugh, &c.

318

LETTER LXXIX.

Thomas Howys, to John Paston, esq.

2 September, before 1459.—38 H. VI.

A present of venison from the earl of Oxford to Sir John Fastolf.—Various business.—The title of master displeasing to W. Worcester.—Iankin to be placed in the duke of Norfolk's household, &c.

320

L E T-

L E T T E R LXXX.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

January, before 1459.—38 H. VI.

Informs him how the alterations and repairs of their house proceeded.—
Description of their bed-chamber and furniture.—A child brought home from
nurse.—William at Blickling.—His mother's attention to his sister Elizabeth's
marriage.—Knevet, the heir, to be enquired after, as a proper alliance for her,
&c. - - - - - page 324

L E T T E R LXXXI.

Elizabeth Poynings, to Agnes Paston.

3 January, 1458-9.—37 H. VI.

Requests her mother's blessing.—Informs her of her health.—Speaks well of
her husband.—Desires the remainder of her marriage portion, and the money left
her by her father's will.—Begs of her to pay what remained due for her board,
when she resided with lady Pole, &c. - - - - - 328

L E T T E R LXXXII.

Hugh Fenn, to John Paston.

1 March, 1458-9.—37 H. VI.

Account of Sir John Fastolf's law business.—Other law proceedings.—Re-
quests J. Paston to direct Sir J. Fastolf to such a disposition of his property
as shall be to his honour here, and happiness hereafter.—Offers his services and
advice, &c. - - - - - 332

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

John Paston eldest son, to John Paston, esq.

5 March, 1458-9.—37 H. VI.

Asks his blessing.—Is sorry for having displeased him.—Wishes to be useful
in the country.—And to regain his favour, &c. - - - - - 336

L E T-

LETTER LXXXIV.

Sir John Fastolf, to John, duke of Norfolk.

2 April, about 1459.—37 H. VI.

—Recommends himself to the duke with good wishes and prayers for his prosperity.—Requests his assistance in matters relative to his chaplain, &c. and in punishing embracery, &c.—Wishes for his help in an affair with Sir Philip Wentworth. Mentions his age and want of ability to come to Framlingham, &c.

page 338

LETTER LXXXV.

John Brackle, to John Paston, esq.

1459.—37 H. VI.

Expected him to meet.—Differences settled.—The prior's address to the jurors.—A doctor preached against the lords of the duke of York's party.—Doctors made monks.—The chancellor against those lords, and why.—Commissions granted to Henry the Sixth's friends to arrest traytors.—None to J. Paston, &c. The oar, &c. taken from my lord Scales's men at Cromer.—Quotations from scripture, &c.

342

LETTER LXXXVI.

John Brackle, to John Paston, esq.

1459.—37 H. VI.

Desires J. Paston to come to Caister, &c.—Sir John Fastolf draweth near his end.—Caister to be amortised to St. Benet's abbey.—Sir John desires much to see his cousin J. Paston.—Colinus Gallicus.—Executorship.—Henry Todenham, &c.

346

LETTER LXXXVH.

William Paston, to John Paston.

12 November, 1459.—38 H. VI.

W. Paston and Worcester at London on Sir J. Fastolf's affairs.—The lord chancellor their friend.—Sir J. Fastolf's goods, &c.—Lord of Exeter's claim.—Sir J. Fastolf to be worshipfully buried.—W. Worcester should be in a condition to support himself, &c.

352

LETTER LXXXVIII.

William Wainfleet, bishop of Winchester, to . . .

November, or December, 1459.—38 H. VI.

The bishop executor to Sir John Fastolf.—His advice concerning his goods, &c.—Burial.—Month's mind.—Alms, &c.—His servants rewards to be paid immediately.—Advice to be taken concerning the administration, &c. page 358

LETTER LXXXIX.

John de Vere, earl of Oxford, to John Paston, esq.

17 May, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Thomas Denyes, the earl's servant, has an affection for a gentlewoman near J. Paston.—The earl interests himself in the marriage, and desires J. Paston to inform the lady of his intentions. Offers to come himself, &c. - 360

LETTER XC.

The king (Henry VI.), to John Paston, esq.

18 September, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Desires him to respite any proceedings at law which he might have against lord Molyns, his servants, &c. as his lordship was employed to execute certain commandments from his majesty, and therefore could not attend the courts of law, &c. - - - - - 362

LETTER XCI.

Thomas lord Scales, to John Paston, esq.

16 October, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Lord Scales recommends it to J. Paston to permit Wotton, &c. to have their lands, as his detaining them causes him to be ill spoken of, &c. - 364

LET-

L E T T E R XCII.

Richard Southwell, to John Paston, esq.

18 December, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Acquaints him with tidings from London to his lord and lady concerning Daniel.—The duke of Somerset and lord Scales, his friends.—Brayston.—This letter to be burnt.—Christmas kept at Framlingham, &c. page 366

L E T T E R XCIII.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

17 August, 1460.—38 H. VI.

Sessions at East Dereham and Walsingham.—Hugh Fenn, a friend to J. Paston.—She wishes him to come home.—A proverb.—Pestilence at Norwich.—His mother and his cousin Clere wishes him well.—High sheriff his friend.—Presentation to Drayton disputed.—John Estgate dead.—A letter missent, &c. 370

L E T T E R XCIV.

Richard Southwell, to John Paston.

6 October, about 1460.—39 H. VI.

Wishes him to intercede with master Radcliff for his good will.—Informs him that he has been accused both to the king and queen.—Purse.—Money.—My lord of Suffolk ordered to dismiss him.—The queen's sign manual.—He is always ready to oblige J. Paston, &c. 376

L E T T E R XCV.

John Jenney, to John Paston, esq.

Before 1460.—38 H. VI.

My lord of Norfolk's speech concerning J. Paston as member for Norfolk.—Howard.—Sir Thomas Todenham.—Howard enraged.—My lord of York, &c. blamed for proposing Howard for Norfolk.—A county of worship, &c. 380

L E T-

C O N T E N T S. xxv

L E T T E R XCVI.

John Brackle, to John Paston, esq.

1460.—39 H. VI.

Heydon member for Berkshire.—Lady of Suffolk's application for a sheriff.—Prayers and good wishes for the earl of Warwick and his friends, &c.—Writing made at Coventry parliament.—Quotations from scripture, &c. page 382

L E T T E R XCVII.

John Brackle, to John Paston, esq.

23 October, 1460.—39 H. VI.

Dr. Aleyn's account of matters after the parliament at Coventry, who should have rule, &c.—Quotations from scripture.—Wishes the earl of Warwick, &c. to attend to his text.—J. Paston's family well.—The Priest's remembrance of, and prayers for him, &c. 386

N U M B E R XCVIII.

John Brackle's Whitsunday sermon preached at Norwich.

No date.

The descent of the Holy Ghost upon the disciples, &c.—Three things required in them for preaching to all nations.—Their helps from above.—Reference to his sermon on Easter day.—Prayers to God.—Joys perfect and imperfect.—Void, half full, and full joys.—Examples and quotations, &c. 392

L E T T E R XCIX.

Nicholas Abbot of Langley, to John Stokes.

8 May, 1460.—38 H. VI.

Desires to be excused attending at London as one of the executors of Sir John Fastolf.—J. Paston and Thomas Howys intended by Sir John as his acting executors.—Sir John Fastolf's words to the abbot, &c. 398

L E T T E R C.

John Titleshale, prior of Bromholm, to John Paston, esq.

14 October, 1460.—39 H. VI. or 1465. 5 E. IV.

Obligations acknowledged to J. Paston.—Requests his assistance to obtain from the queen timbers for his dormitory from the duchy lands of Lancaster. length, &c. page 400

L E T T E R C I.

John Titleshale, Prior of Bromholm, to John Paston, esq.

31 January, 1460.—39 H. VI.

His visit at Caister.—Good cheer there.—Conversation with sir Thomas Howys concerning gifts to his priory.—Petitions J. Paston for some gift from the goods in his hands.—The bishop's commission.—Prayer for J. Paston, &c.

404

L E T T E R C II.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

1 February, 1460.—39 H. VI.

His signet found and sent.—Various errands.—Henry, son of sir William Paston.—Dates and cinnamon to be procured.—John Damme.—Particular conclusion, &c.

408

L E T T E R C III.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston, esq.

1 March, 1460.—39 H. VI.

Advices him to be careful of himself, as there was a design to apprehend him and carry him into the North.—The friends of the house of Lancaster in good spirits.—State of the county of Norfolk.—Refers him to the bearer for more particulars, &c.

412

L E T.

L E T T E R C I V.

William Naunton, to John Paston.

Date uncertain.

W. Naunton informs J. Paston of the proceedings at Cotton-hall.—The breaking down the bridge, &c.—Keeping possession, and calling a court.—A great fellowship.—Threats, &c. - page 414

L E T T E R C V.

T. (with a device) to John Paston.

3 December, . . . Year uncertain.

Reminds him of the strictness of the order of the brethren of the temple of Syon.—Thomas Babington, master and sovereign.—J. Paston's time of penance, in relieving, &c. above his ability.—Requests him to come amongst his brethren to be merry and jocund at Christmas, &c. - 418

L E T T E R C V I.

Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

May. Date uncertain.

Informs him of a house to be sold in St. Laurence's parish.—Southwell enters the manor of Hale, and keeps possession by force.—Lady Boys gone to the king to complain.—Unguentum album.—A girdle to be bought for their fair daughter, &c. - 424

L E T T E R C V I I.

Edmund Paston, to John Paston.

Gregory to be discharged by his mother's order for an amour.—Recommends him to J. Paston.—Hints that his going is to oblige one who rules the family.—Says he will be even with him.—Dispute between Calle and E. Paston, &c.

426

L E T-

L E T T E R CVIII.

Richard Calle, to John Paston.

Date uncertain.

Informs him of the money and corn raised for victualling the barge of Yarmouth in different hundreds and towns, &c. - - - page 430

L E T T E R CIX.

William Price, to John Paston.

June. Date uncertain.

Concerning the election for the county of Norfolk.—Berney, Grey, and Paston had the greatest voice.—He intends to return Paston and Grey with the high sheriff's consent, &c. - - - 432

L E T T E R CX.

Perse, to Sir Robert Rokesby.

. . . . H. VI. or E. IV.

Requests his application to Richard Kowven, for money due to him.—Complains of his treatment in prison.—Lord Roos's prisoner.—Thanks, &c. to Sir Robert for his kindness, &c. - - - ibid.

ACCOUNT of the PLATES.

FRONTISPIECE TO VOL. III.

THE two portraits, here represented on a checquered marble pavement, kneeling on cushions in the attitude of prayer, being in armour with surcoats of their arms, are those of king Henry VI. and John Mowbray, the third duke of Norfolk of that house, taken from a painted window in the church of St. Paul, at Bedford.

Henry VI.
and John
duke of
Norfolk.

The king appears in this drawing much younger than he was when that which makes the frontispiece to the first volume of this work was taken; he is here likewise adorned with his royal crown, having on his surcoat the quartered arms of France and England, his sword girded about him, and in every respect he appears like a sovereign prince.

The Editor cannot help fancying but that he can in this representation trace the same countenance which characterises this king both in Mr. Walpole's print of his marriage, and in the frontispiece before mentioned.

This seems to represent him at a middle period; at the time of his marriage he was nearly twenty-three years old; at the time of life in which he is here delineated, we may guess him to be upwards of thirty years of age; and in the portrait before given, he was between forty and fifty.

The arched part of his crown is filled by a cap of crimson velvet, and such part of his armour as appears is enriched with gold; the cushion on which he kneels is of purple velvet, bordered with gold lace, having tassels of the same.

John Mowbray duke of Norfolk, earl Marshal, and earl of Nottingham, lord Segrave, Gower, &c. and knight of the Garter.

This nobleman was sent into Picardy, in 1438, as ambassador, to make peace between the kings of England and France.

In 1446 he went on pilgrimage to Rome, and in 1456 he had permission to visit many other holy places, and to proceed to the Blood of our Saviour at Windismark in Germany, as also to go a second time to Rome and Jerusalem, having vowed this pilgrimage for the recovery of the king's health.

He just lived to see his royal master dethroned, and to be appointed, by his successor Edward IV. justice itinerant of all the forests south of Trent, and then dying, was buried in the abbey of Thetford, in Norfolk, in 1461.

It may be supposed that the pilgrimage undertaken by him, in hopes of obtaining health to his sovereign, entitled him to such a mark of distinction as to be here delineated with him.

He has a ducal coronet on his head, his armour appears similar to that of the king, and the arms on his tabard or surcoat are those of England, with a label of three points argent for Brotherton, and Gules a lion rampant argent, armed, and langued azure, for Mowbray. See his Letters, &c. N^o iii. Vol. I. N^o xxvi. and lxiii. Vol. III. and for his curious Monogram, or Autograph, refer to Pl. I. N^o 3.

The

The engraving on the title page of this volume exhibits a view of the present magnificent ruins of the castle of Framlingham in Suffolk, drawn by the accurate and elegant pencil of my worthy friend Francis Grose, Esq. a place frequently mentioned in these letters as being then the hospitable mansion of the Mowbrays, dukes of Norfolk; by the noble inhabitant of which some of the letters here presented to the reader were written, and to himself and divers of his household others were addressed.

Framlingham castle.

This noble remain of antiquity is supposed to have been erected in the time of the Saxons; it was a large, strong, and massy building, containing within its walls, which were forty-four feet high and eight feet thick, flanked by thirteen square towers rising considerably above them, two of which were watch-towers, an area of land of one acre one rood and eleven perches. Many of the curiously wrought chimnies are still standing on the towers.

Soon after the Conquest, the castle was granted to the Bigods earls of Norfolk; it afterwards became the property of Thomas of Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and from his female descendants was inherited by the Mowbrays, dukes of Norfolk; it then descended to the Howards, dukes of the same county, and from this family it was granted to the de Veres earls of Oxford, but reverted again to the Howards; by one of them it was sold to Sir Robert Hitcham, knight, attorney general to Charles I. who settled it for various charitable uses on the master and fellows of Pembroke-hall in Cambridge, who are the present owners.

To this strong fortress queen Mary retired in 1553, and hence set out to take possession of that crown, which her amiable but un-

John Mow-
bray, duke of
Norfolk.

fortunate competitor, lady Jane Grey, had aspired to, at the instigation of her ambitious relations.

John Mowbray duke of Norfolk, earl Marshal, and earl of Nottingham, to which latter titles he was restored by king Henry V. was a younger son of John lord Mowbray, by Elizabeth daughter and coheir of John lord Segrave, by Margaret daughter and coheir of Thomas Plantagenet of Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England, and succeeded his brother Thomas, who was beheaded, in 1406.

In 1414 he was present at the siege of Harfleur with king Henry V. but being there taken ill, he was obliged to return to England before the famous battle of Agincourt, in 1415. In 1416, he was at the siege of Caen in Normandy, and continued in those parts till the death of Henry, by whom he had been made a knight of the Garter. He was soon retained to serve Henry VI. and being one of those valiant soldiers who had acquired renown in the armies of both his sovereigns in their French wars, where he had ever behaved with the greatest courage and fidelity, he was, in 1424, restored to the title and dignity of duke of Norfolk, having been hitherto styled only earl Marshal and earl of Nottingham.

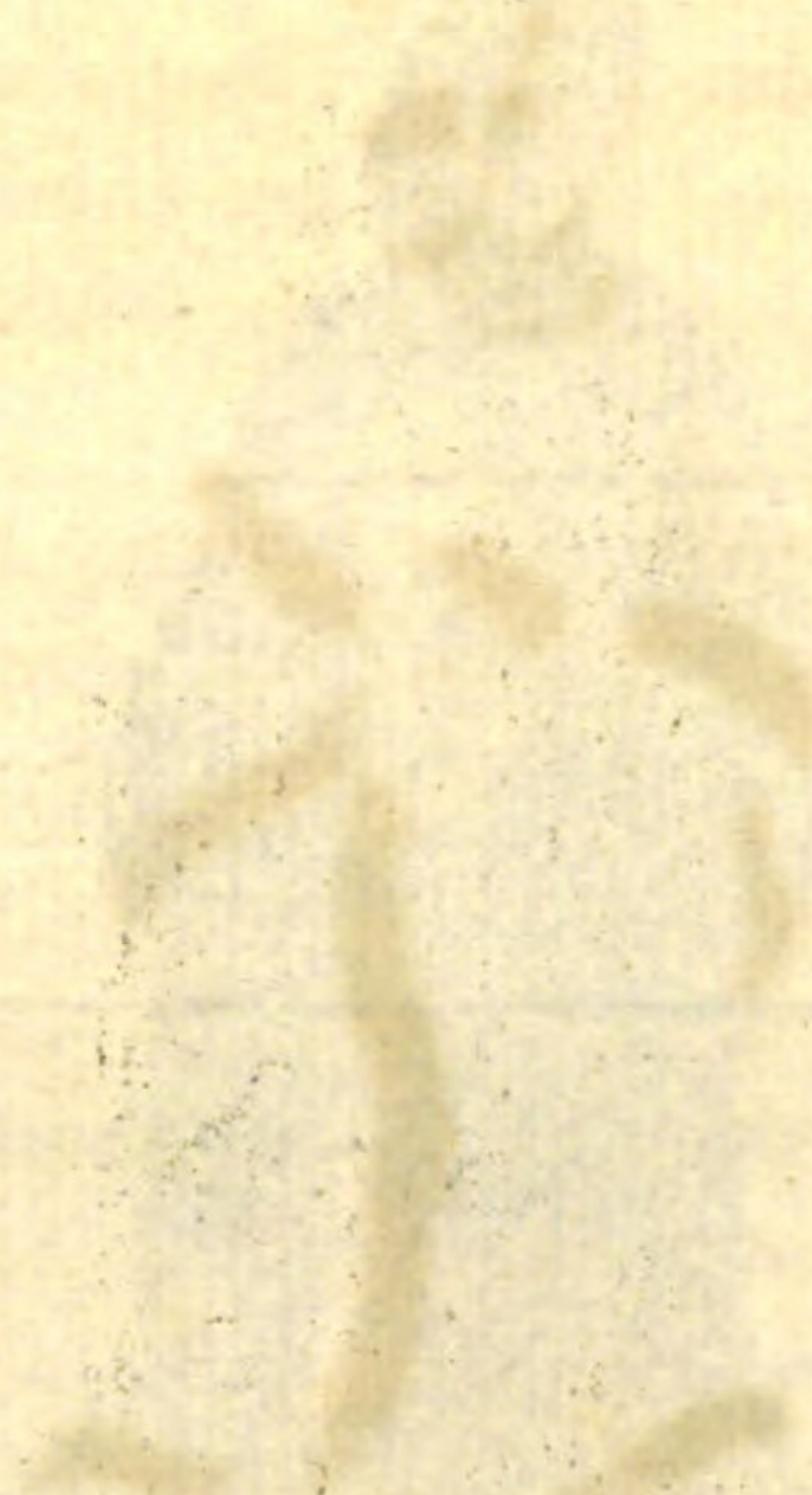
He died about 1434, at his manor of Epleworth, in the isle of Axholm, and was buried in the Chapter-house of the Carthusians there.

He married Katharine (see Letter iii. of this volume) daughter of Ralph lord Neville, first earl of Westmoreland, by Joan, daughter of John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster, and by her had John, who succeeded him as duke of Norfolk, and whose portrait



Johannes Dux de Norfolk.

Cook Sc.



Faint, illegible text or a signature located below the rectangular stamp.

trait is represented on the same place with that of king Henry VI. The arms here emblazoned are those of England with a label of three points for Brotherton, quartering those of Warren, the ancient earls of Surrey, chequy, or and azure.

This portrait is taken from a painting on glass in St. Mary's hall, at Coventry.

The duke's head-dress is of crimson velvet fringed with gold, that part of the under-garment which appears below his neck is blue, the sleeve crimson, and both embroidered with gold; his gown of purple velvet is lined with ermine, and bordered with gold lace.

The following portraits, in the attitude of prayer, kneeling on cushions, on a marble pavement, are copied from a north painted window in the Nave of Litchfield Cathedral.

The first represents Humphrey Stafford earl of Stafford, son of Edmund earl of Stafford, by the lady Anne, only daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, youngest son of king Edward III. He was made a knight of the Garter early in the reign of Henry VI. and created duke of Buckingham by the same prince in 1444. He had several commands in France, and was sent ambassador to that court to treat of peace. In 1446, he obtained a grant for precedence above all dukes, those of the blood-royal excepted; and ever adhering firmly to the interest of his sovereign, was slain at the battle of Northampton, in July 1460, where he bore a joint-command with the duke of Somerset; he is there buried.

Humphrey.
earl of Staf-
ford..

This nobleman is habited in rich armour, over which, on a surcoat, are his arms, namely, or a cheveron gules.

His

His signature as earl of Stafford is subscribed to the earl of Warwick's articles N^o 1. of this volume; and his Autograph as duke of Buckingham, appears to Letter v. Vol. I.

Anne, countess of Stafford.

The second figure represents Anne, countess of Stafford, his wife, daughter of Ralph Neville earl of Westmoreland; her undergarment is of blue velvet; her mantle of crimson, adorned with a white saltier, the arms of her family, is lined with cloth of gold ornamented with the red cheveron of her husband's arms. Being left a widow in 1460, she married Walter Blount lord Montjoy, and dying in 1480 was buried at Plessey, in Essex.

Humphrey Stafford their son.

The portrait in the centre is designed for Humphrey their eldest son, afterwards earl of Stafford, who died of the wounds he received at the battle of St. Alban's in 1455. He is represented in the same attitude and dress as his father, but without a sword, most probably having never been knighted. His wife was Margaret, sister and coheir of Edmund Beaufort duke of Somerset.

The *Orate pro bono statu illustrissimi dni Humfridi Comitiss Staffordie, et Anne consortis sue*, shews these personages to have been benefactors to the church of Litchfield, and that this memorial of them was erected not only in their life-time, but before he was advanced to the dukedom of Buckingham.

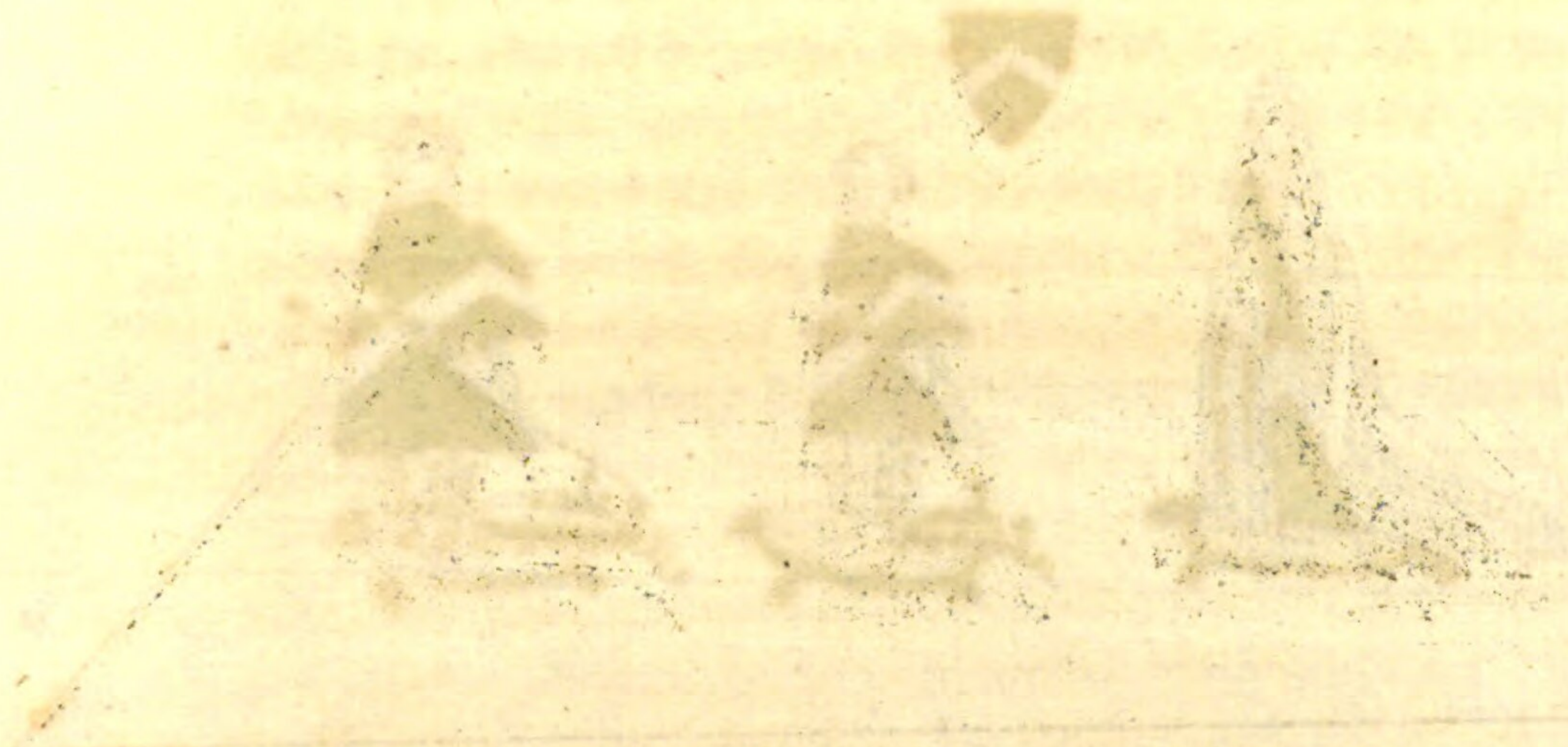
The arms in the heater shield are those of Stafford.

The cushion on which the earl kneels is of blue velvet, her's is of green, and the son's of purple, each bordered and tasselled with gold.

For the drawings of these three plates I am obliged to my esteemed and ingenious friend John Charles Brooke, Esq. Somerset herald.



Orate pro bono statu illustrissimi dñi Humfridi Comitis
Staffordie, et dñe Anne consortis sue.



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15 N. 2nd St. Phila. 1862

Plate xvii. contains a fac-simile representation of the conclusion of the earl of Warwick's articles, and of the signatures of the subscribing peers and great officers of state. Fac-similes and Autographs.

Plates xviii. xix. and xx. contain fac-simile representations of the names, titles, &c. of the writers of the letters contained in this volume; several of them have likewise superadded the concluding sentence of their respective letters, as additional specimens of their hand-writing.

Plates xxi. and xxii. represent exact delineations of the various paper marks worked into the paper on which the Original Letters are written. Paper marks.

Plate xxiii. exhibits the different seals still remaining on the letters in this volume, with representations of the fastening slips of paper and string, or thread, now adhering to the originals. Nos 10 and 11. on this plate, are intended to shew both the directed and sealed side of one of the letters, with the manner of folding, securing, and directing letters at the period here mentioned. Seals, &c.

for year of 1750 28 and 29	CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX. No. xxv.	Gloucester, Cornwall, Essex, Suffolk, Stafford.	Plate XVII. After the following words a party, bound to place, not a name.
LIST of PLATES and NUMBERS.			
for [traced] read [traced]	Note. 4	420	CVII
for Gloic read Glois		419	
for 14 read 14..	8	418	CIV
for 7 read 7	10	417	
after further add the names, and place a [traced]	Note. 12	408	CH
for Sturtill read Sturtill			
for King of the Province of Arms read King of Arms of the Province	Note. 10		
for [traced] read [traced]	7	380	XCVII
for 100 read 100	Last line	379	XCVI
for 100 read 100	1	370	XCV
for 100 read 100	12	350	LXXVI
for 100 read 100	Note. 4	292	LXXII
for 100 read 100	1	201	LXXI

CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS.

Letter.	Page.	Line.	V O L. III.
I	5	4	after groweth so add a comma, — after power add a comma
II	17	20	for [Reponso] read [Responsio]
V	23	9	below Skelton add 1434. 13 H. VI.
VIII	33	13	for then, till, read than till
XII	45	4	for Palmer too, read Palmer to,
XV	51	9	for Octoer read October
XVI	55	Note, 2	for confort read comfort
	59	Note, 2	for No. 94 read 14
	61	15	for was not read was now
	62	7	after willers dele the comma, and add a semicolon;
	64	17	for galant read gallant
	64	4	for alma read alms
	72	2	for to do read to done
	73	28	for Comunas read Comunies
	75	7	for onnu'fal read univ'fall
	78	12	for p'figin read p'igni
	119	5	for private read privity
	127	7	for arms read armies
	135	1	after ordinance add a comma,
	158	3	for as read is
	191	9	for leffy read leffe
	200	3	for for the read how the
	210	5	for know read knew
	217	4	dele I
	230	2	for Limno' read Lumnot
	267	13	for octagonal read octangular
	270	3	for aa read ae
	291	1	for maak read mark
	293	4	for dei dei read dei dni
	350	12	for vid. read vidz.
	379	1	for 3066 5 6 read 3066 0 0
	384	Last line	for following read foregoing
	386	5	dele entirely
	408	Note, 10	after transactions add both in England and
	411	Note, 15	after sustained dele both in England and—and then add in
	414	8	for ia read in
	419	5	for Bokenhem read Bokenham
	428	Note, 4	for abscidat read abscidat'
	429	16	for cafe read cause
			for co'fius read c'ofius
			for assistant' read assistant
			for King of the Province of Arms read King of Arms of the Province
			for Sheriff read Sheriffs
			after furthest dele the comma, and place a semicolon;
			for y ^c read y ^t
			for 14 read 14..
			for Gloir read Glois
			for [breach] read [breach]

LIST of PLATES and NUMBERS.

Plate XVII. After the following words a period should be placed and not a comma
Gloucestre. Cromwell. Ebor. Suffolk. Stafford.

CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX. No. xxiv.
for year of reign 38 read 36

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

V O L. III.

Henry VI. and the Duke of Norfolk, Frontispiece to Vol. III. to be placed before the Title Pages.
John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, to front Page xxxii.
Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, &c. to front Page xxxiv.
Plates XVII.—XXIII. to be placed following each other at the End of the Volume.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

H E N R Y VI.

1432

1460.

11

39 H. VI.

VOL. III.

B

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

L E T T E R J.

Articles de Mons^r. de ¹Warrewyk touch' le bon regime du Roy, &c.

FOR y^e goode Reule demesnyng and seuretee of ye Kynges
p'sone and draught of him to vertue and connyng and
eschuying of eny ying yat mighte yeve empeschem't or let y^rto
or

On the back of the parchment on which these Articles are transcribed, is written "The requests of the erle of Warwick," and then the following memorandum, "xxix^a die Novemb. A^o undecimo apud West^m lecti fuerūt p^{ntes} Articuli corā Dñis infra subscribentibz et ad eosd^m R^{nsiones} ibid^m dabant^r continuè q^d infra patet, p^{ntibus} Dñis infra scriptis."

The reader is here presented with a set of articles drawn up by the earl of Warwick, preceptor to king Henry VI. and presented by him to the officers of state and privy council for their approbation and concurrence, those, to which he already had their consent, now becoming insufficient for his management of his royal pupil.

They are penned in a masterly manner, and shew not only the earl's knowledge of mankind, but likewise his thorough acquaintance with the important trust committed to his care.

Henry VI. was now in the 11th year of his reign, and had nearly completed the eleventh of his age; a period dangerous to those whose duty it was not only to improve his mind, but also to correct and restrain his passions, when, if he were a forward boy, his mind would open, and he would begin to feel his own importance, even without the insinuations of flatterers, which in his situation were likely to be whispered, and which by the tenour of the requisitions we find had been actually conveyed to his ear.

The articles are judicious, and could not have been more concisely nor more perspicuously worded, nor have contained more important matter for the well governing of a youth, if they had been the production of modern time, neither could the good sense and propriety of the great officers and council, have been at this day more advantageously
shewn.

H E N R Y VI.

L E T T E R I.

*Articles declaring how the Earl of ¹Warwick took the charge of
King Henry VI.*

FOR the good rule, demeaning, and surety of the King's Person and draught of him to virtue and cunning [*knowledge,*] and eschewing of any thing that might give impeachment or let

shewn in the guarded and satisfactory manner whereby they assented to the terms proposed; the present idea of chastisement would undoubtedly have been different, but it was then consonant to the rough manners of the age.

We cannot help having an high opinion of the earl of Warwick's abilities for the post he filled, and of the propriety of conduct in the duke of Gloucester and the subscribing lords, who, by delegating such powers to his governor, seem to have had the future welfare of their sovereign in view.

¹ Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, was born in 1380, and, whether we consider him as a soldier or statesman, was one of the most considerable personages of his time. In 1408 he visited the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, and on his journey thither acquitted himself with the greatest valour at tournaments, and other acts of valour in the courts of several princes.

King Henry V. for his great merit appointed him guardian and preceptor to his infant son, which appointment upon his death was confirmed by parliament. In consequence of this trust he was recalled from France, where he had a principal command under the duke of Bedford, and upon that duke's decease, in 1435, he returned thither again as regent.

He died at the castle of Roan in Normandy, on the 30th of April 1439, and his body, by his own desire being brought into England, was deposited for a time in the collegiate church of Warwick, till the sumptuous chapel, which he had directed to be built, should be ready for its reception.

This chapel, together with the magnificent tomb of its founder, cost 248*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.*

or cause eny charge defaulte or blame to be leyd upon y^e Erle of Warrewyk at eny tyme withouten his desert, he considering yat p[']ill and besynesse of his charge aboute ye kinges persone groweth so yat that auctoritee and power yeven to him before suffiseth him nought without more y[']to desyreth y[']fore yees yinges yat folowen.

Furst yat considering yat ye charge of ye Reule demesnyng and gove'nance and also of nourture of ye Kinges persone resteth upon ye said Erle whiles it shal like ye King and ye p[']ill daunger and blame if eny lak or defaulte were in eny of yees ye whiche lak or defaulte mighte be caused by ungodely or unvertuous men if eny suche were aboute his persone he desyreth y[']fore for the goode of ye King and for his owne seuretee to have power and auctoritee to nome ordeigne and assigne and for cause yat shal be yought to him resonable to remoeve yoo yat shal be aboute ye Kinges p[']sone of what estate or condicōn yat yei be not entending to cōp[']hende in yis desir ye Stuard Chamberlein Tresoror Controwlo^r ne Sergeants of offices save such as serve aboute ye Kinges p[']sone and for his mouth.

Rñō. As toward ye namyng ordeignance and assignacon beforesaid it is agreed so yat he take in noon of ye iiij Knightes ne Squyers for the body without yadvis of my Lord of ² Bedford him.

² John Plantagenet, duke of Bedford, brother to the late king, and regent of France, was one of the most valiant and accomplished princes of his age. He knighted his nephew, king Henry VI. in 1425, and dying at Paris in 1435, was buried under a sumptuous

thereto, or cause any charge, default, or blame, to be laid upon the Earl of Warwick at any time without his desert, he, considering that peril and business of his charge about the King's person groweth so that that authority and power given to him before, sufficeth him nought without more thereto, desireth therefore these things that follow.

1. First, that considering that the charge of the rule, demeaning, and governance, and also of nurture of the King's Person, resteth upon the said Earl, whilst it shall like the King, and the peril, danger, and blame, if any lack or default were in any of these, the which lack or default might be caused by ungodly or unvirtuous men, if any such were about his person; he desireth therefore for the good of the King and for his own surety to have power and authority to name, ordain, and assign, and, for cause that shall be thought to him reasonable, to remove those that shall be about the King's person of what estate or condition that they be, not intending to comprehend in this desire the Steward, Chamberlain, Treasurer, Controller, nor Serjeants of offices, save such as serve about the King's person and for his mouth.

Rñō. [*Reponso.*] Answer, as toward the naming, ordinance, and assignation before said, it is agreed, so that he take in none of the four Knights nor Esquires for the body, without the advice of my Lord of Bedford, him being in England, and him

sumptuous monument in our lady's church at Roan, which when Lewis XI. was counselled to deface, he nobly replied, "*Touch it not; let the body of that great man rest in peace, which, when alive, would have disquieted the proudest of us all.*"

being

him being in Englonde and him being out of my Lord of
³ Gloucestre and of the Remenant of ye Kinges counsaile.

Itm, ye said Erle desireth yat where he shal have eny p'sone
 in his discrecion suspect of mysgov'nance and not behoveful nor
 expedient to be aboute ye King except yestates of ye hous yat he
 may putte hem from exercise and occupacon of ye Kinges service
 till yat he shal mowe have speche with my Lordes of Bedford or
 of Gloucestre and with ye oyr Lordes of the Kinges counsaile to
 yat ende yat ye defaulte of eny suche p'sone knowen vnto him
 shal mowe ordeigne y'upon as yeim shal yenke be expedient and
 behovefull.

Rñō. it is agreed as it is desired.

Itm, ye said Erle desireth yat for sikenesse and oyer causes
 necessaries and resonables he may by warnyng to my Lordes of
 Bedford or Gloucestre and ye Kinges Counsaile be and stande
 freely descharged of ye faide occupacion and besinesse aboute ye
 Kinges p'sone under ye favour and goode grace of ye King my
 Lordes of Bedford and Gloucestre and oyer Lordes of ye Kinges
 Counsaile.

Rñō. it is agreed as it is desired.

Itm yat considering howe blessed be God ye King is growen
 in yeers in stature of his p'sone and also in conceit and knowleche
 of his hiegh and Royalle auctoritee and estat ye whiche naturelly
 causen him, and from day to day as he groweth shul causen him
 more

³ Humphrey Plantagenet, duke of Gloucester, protector of the realm of England, and
 youngest brother to Henry V. was a scholar and a statesman. At a parliament holden at
 St. Edmund's Bury, in 1446-7 he was arrested for high treason, and shortly after was
 found murdered in his bed in the abbey there, by the contrivance and procurement as it
 was

being out, of my Lord of ' Gloucester, and of the Remanent of the King's Council.

2. Item, the said Earl desireth that where he shall have any person in his discretion suspect [*suspected*] of misgovernance, and not behoveful nor expedient to be about the King, except the estates of the house, that he may put them from exercise and occupation of the King's service, till that he shall mowe have speech with my Lord of Bedford, of Gloucester, and with the other Lords of the King's council, to that end that the default of any such person known unto him shall mowe ordain thereupon as them [*they*] shall think expedient and behoveful.

Answer, it is agreed as it is desired.

3. Item, the said Earl desireth that, for sickness and other causes necessary and reasonable, he may by warning to my Lords of Bedford, or Gloucester, and the King's council, be and stand freely discharged of the said occupation and business about the King's person, under the favour and good grace of the King, my Lords of Bedford and Gloucester, and other Lords of the King's Council.

Answer, it is agreed as it is desired.

4. Item, that considering how, blessed be God! the King is grown in years, in stature of his person, and also in conceit and knowledge of his high and Royal authority and estate, the which naturally cause him, and from day to day as he groweth, shall

was supposed of queen Margaret, and the then marquis of Suffolk, in conjunction with the cardinal of Winchester. He was buried at St. Alban's, and in 1703 his body was discovered preserved in a kind of pickle.

more and more to grucche with chaſtifying and to lothe it ſo yat it may reſonably be doubted leſte he wol conceive ayeins ye ſaid Erle or eny oy^r yat wol take upon him to chaſtiſe him for his defaultes diſpleſir or indignacion y^rfore, ye whiche withoute due aſſiſtence is not eaſy to be born. It like y^rfore to my Lord of Glouceſtre and to alle the Lordes of ye Kinges counſail to promitte to ye ſaid Erle and aſſure him, yat yei ſhul fermely and trewely aſſiſten him in ye exerciſe of ye charge and occupacion yat he hath aboute ye Kinges perſone, namely in chaſtifying of him for his defaultes and ſupport the ſaid Erle y^rinne and if ye king at eny time wol conceyve for yat cauſe indignacion ayeins ye ſaid Erle, my ſaid Lord of Glouceſtre and Lordes ſhul do all her trewe diligence and power to remoeve y^e King y^rfro.

Rño. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm, ye ſaid Erle deſireth yat for aſmuche as it ſhal be neceſſarie to remoeve the Kinges p^rſone at diuerſe tymes into fundry places as ye caſes mowe require yat he may have power and auctoritee to remoeve ye King by his diſcrecion into what place him yenketh neceſſarie for ye helthe of his body and ſeuretee of his perſone.

Rño. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm, ſith ye ſaid Erle hath take upon him ye gov^rnance of ye Kinges perſone he deſireth yat alle yeſtates, officers and ſ^rvantz of ye Kinges hous, of what eſtate and condicon yei be have ſpāl commandem^t and charge yeven by my Lordes of Bedford and Glouceſtre and by ye Lordes of ye Kinges counſail, yat in alle man^re yinges ſeyn and aviſed by ye ſaid Erles deſcrecion, yat is
for

cause him more and more to grudge with chastising, and to loath it, so that it may reasonably be doubted lest he will conceive against the said Earl, or any other that will take upon him to chastise him for his defaults, displeasure or indignation therefore, the which without due assistance is not easy to be born. It like therefore to my Lord of Gloucester and to all the Lords of the King's council to promitte [*promise*] to the said Earl and assure him, that they shall firmly and truly assist him in the exercise of the charge and occupation that he hath about the King's person, namely in chastising of him for his defaults, and support the said Earl therein; and if the King at any time will conceive for that cause indignation against the said Earl, my said Lord of Gloucester and Lords shall do all their true diligence and power to remove the King therefrom.

Answer, it is agreed as it is desired.

5. Item, the said Earl desireth, that forasmuch as it shall be necessary to remove the King's Person at divers times into sundry places as the cases may require, that he may have power and authority to remove the King by his discretion into what place him [*he*] thinketh necessary for the health of his body and surety of his person.

Answer, it is agreed as it is desired.

6. Item, sith [*since*] the said Earl hath take upon him the governance of the King's person, he desireth that all the estates, officers and servants of the King's house, of what estate and condition they be, have special commandment and charge given by my Lords of Bedford, and Gloucester, and by the Lords of the King's council, that in all manner [*of*] things seen and advised by the said Earl's discretion, that is for the King's

for ye Kinges estate worship helthe and profit by his commendem't and ordeignance yei be attendant and obeissant in accomplisshing y'of.

Rño. it is agreed as it is desired.

Itm, for as muche as ye said Erle hath knowleche yat in speche yat hath be had unto ye King at p't and in prive not hering ye said Erle nor eny of ye Knightes set aboute his persone nor assigned by ye said Erle he hath be stured by fume from his lernyng and spoken to of div'se mat'es not behovefull, ye seid Erle doubting ye harme yat mighte falle to y^e King and ye Inconvenientz yat mighte ensue of such speche at p't if it were suffred, desireth yat in al speche to be had with ye King, he or oon of ye iiij Knightes or sum p'sone to be assigned by ye said Erle be present and prive to it.

Rño. yis article is agreed excepting suche p'sones as for nieghnesse of blood and for yeir estate owe of reson to be suffred to speke with ye King.

Itm, to yentent yat it may be knowen to ye King yat it procedeth of yassent advis and agreem't of my Lord of Gloucestre and alle my Lordes of ye Kinges counsail yat ye King be chastised for his defaultes or trespasses and yat for awe y'of he forbere ye more to do mys and entende ye more besily to vertu and to lernyng, ye said Erle desireth yat my Lord of Gloucestre and my said oy^r Lordes of ye counsail or greet p't of hem, yat is to say ye Chancellor and Tresorer and of ev'ych estate in ye counsail spūell and temporell fume come to ye Kinges p'sence and y'e to make to be declared to him yeire agreement in yat behalve.

Rno. When ye King cometh next to London all his counsail shal come to his p'sence and y'e yis shal be declared to him.

estate, worship, health, and profit, by his commandment and ordinance, they be attendant and obeissant in accomplishing thereof.

Answer, it is agreed as it is desired.

7. Item, forasmuch as the said Earl hath knowledge that in speech that hath been had unto the King at part [*apart*] and in private, not hearing the said Earl, nor any of the Knights set about his person, nor assigned by the said Earl, he hath been stirred by some from his learning, and spoken to of diverse matters not behoveful; the said Earl doubting the harm that might fall to the King, and the inconvenience that might ensue of such speech at part, if it were suffered, desireth that in all speech to be had with the King, he or one of the four Knights, or some person to be assigned by the said Earl, be present and privy to it.

Answer. This article is agreed, excepting such Persons, as for nighness of blood, and for their estate, ought of reason to be suffered to speak with the King.

8. Item, to the intent that it may be known to the King that it proceedeth of the assent, advice, and agreement, of my Lord of Gloucester, and all my Lords of the King's council, that the King be chastised for his defaults or trespasses, and that for awe thereof he forbear the more to do amiss, and intend the more busily to virtue and to learning; the said Earl desireth that my Lord of Gloucester, and my said other Lords of the council or great part of them, that is to say, the Chancellor, and Treasurer, and of everych [*every*] estate in the council spiritual and temporal some come to the King's presence, and there to make to be declared to him their agreement in that behalf.

Answer. When the King cometh next to London, all his council shall come to his presence, and there this shall be declared to him.

Itm, ye said Erle yat alle his dayes hath aboven alle oyr
eryely yinges desired and ev'e shal to kepe his trouthe and wor-
ship unblemyfshed and unhurt and may not for all yat lette
malicious and untrewen men to make informacions of his p'sone,
fuche as yei may not ne dar not stande by, ne be not trewe,
besecheth y^rfore my Lord of Gloucestre and alle my said Lordes
of the counsaile yat if yei or eny of hem have be enformed of eny
ying yat may be or fove to his charge or defaulte and namely
in his occupacion and reule aboute ye Kinges p'sone yat ye said
Erle may have knowleche y^rof to yentent yat he may answer
y^rto, and not dwell in hevye or synistre conceit or opinion withoute
his desert and without answer.

Rñō. it is agreed.

⁷ Cromwell.

³ H. Gloucestre.

⁹ J. Ebor.

¹⁰ D. Elien.

¹¹ W. Lincoln.

⁸ J. Bathen Cane.

¹² J. Nossen.

⁵ Suffolk.

⁴ H. Stafford.

⁶ J. Huntington.

¹³ by 19.

⁴ Humphrey Stafford, earl of Stafford, and in 1444 duke of Buckingham, was killed at the battle of Northampton, in 1460, where he jointly commanded the royal army with the duke of Somerset. He was by his mother great grandson to Edward III.

⁵ William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, was in 1443 made marquis, and in 1448 created duke of Suffolk. He was prime minister to Henry VI. and the favourite of his queen. Being banished to appease the national discontent in 1450, he was taken on the sea, and beheaded without trial. Autograph. Pl. I. N^o 6.

⁶ John Holland restored as earl of Huntington, in 1416, was afterwards created duke of Exeter. He was admiral of England, and constable of the Tower of London. He died in 1447, and was buried in St. Catherine's church, near the Tower.

⁷ Ralph lord Cromwell, was lord treasurer in 1434.

U E T

9. Item, the said Earl, that all his days hath above all other earthly things desired, and ever shall, to keep his truth and worship unblemished and unhurt, and may not for all that let [*prevent*] malicious and untrue men to make informations of his person, such as they may not, nor dare not stand by, nor be not true; beseecheth therefore my Lord of Gloucester, and all my said Lords of the council, that if they or any of them have been informed of any thing that may be or found to his charge or default, and namely in his occupation and rule about the King's person, that the said Earl may have knowledge thereof, to the intent that he may answer thereto, and not dwell in heavy or sinister conceit or opinion without his desert, and without answer.

Answer, it is agreed.

7 CROMWELL.

3 H. GLOUCESTRE.

9 J. EBOR. 10 P. ELIEN.

11 W. LINCOLN. 8 J. BATHEN CANC. 12 J. ROFFEN.

5 SUFFOLK. 4 H. STAFFORD.

6 J. HUNTYNGTON.

29 November, 1432,

11 H. VI.

⁸ John Stafford, bishop of Bath and Wells, and brother to the earl of Stafford, was lord chancellor. He was promoted to the see of Canterbury in 1443, and died in 1452.

⁹ John Kempe was translated from London to York, in 1426, and from this see to Canterbury, in 1452, where he died very old in 1453.

¹⁰ Philip Morgan, bishop of Worcester, was translated to Ely in 1426, he was a man of learning and wisdom, and died in 1434.

¹¹ William Grey was translated to the see of Lincoln, from that of London, in 1431, and died in 1435.

¹² John Langdon, elected bishop of Rochester, in 1421, was both an antiquary and historian, and died at the council of Basil in 1434.

Plate xvii. contains, as a specimen of the whole, a Fac Simile of the conclusion of these articles, with all the autographs placed as they are subscribed to the original parchment,

L E T-

L E T T E R I I I.

*A Petition to the Commons of England against Sr. William Paston
k^t a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas by William Dalling.*

PLESIT to the righte sage and wyse cōes of this p^rsent
p^rlement that wher ev^ry Justice of the Kyng is sworne
that he shulde not take no fees ne reward for to be of counsell
w^t noo man but oonly wyth our sov^rayne lorde the Kyng and
therto yei be swore.

Plese it to Co^res of the p^rsent p^rlement that ^r William Paston
on of the Justice of oure sov^rayne Lorde Kyng takyth div^rse
fees and rewardes of div^rses p^rsones wⁱnne the shir of Norff^r
and Suff^r and is with holde w^t ev^ry mate^r in the sayde contrees
that is for to sey of the Toune of Yernemuth l^s yerly of the
Abot of seyn Benetys xxvj^s viij^d of the Prio^r of seyn Feithes xx^s

On the back of this Petition, in a hand of the time, is written "Falsa Billa Willi Dalling
"tra' p^rliament' temp'e p^r. Hen^r. Grey trciodecimo Regis Hen^r. vj^{ti}."

By this endorsement the bill appears to have been declared a false one, and the petition
rejected; it may therefore be supposed that the accusations were ill-grounded. The reason
for the charge might be this, that when Sir William was an acting Lawyer he received
general retaining fees from corporations, religious societies, and persons of consequence,
to be their standing counsel, and which, possibly might be continued to him after he
became a judge, as a mark of their respect and as a reward for the good services he had
formerly done them; this might certainly give cause to suspect his impartiality when any
causes in which these societies, &c. were concerned came before him.

This petition seems to originate from some part he had taken in favour of a lady,
whereby the wardship of a minor was made less valuable to the king, or, most probably,
to the person who had purchased it from the crown.

Such a conduct in those times must have appeared very extraordinary, when the judges
were entirely under the regal control.

" and

L E T T E R II.

A Petition to the Commons of England against Sir William Paston, Knight, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, by William Dalling.

PLEASE it to the right sage and wise Commons of this present Parliament, that where[as] every Justice of the King is sworn that he should not take no fees nor rewards for to be of counsel with no man, but only with our Sovereign Lord the King, and thereto they be sworn.

Please it to [the] Commons of the present Parliament that William Paston one of the Justices of our Sovereign Lord [the] King taketh divers fees and rewards of divers persons within the shires of Norfolk and Suffolk, and is withhold with every matter in the said countries; that is to say,

Of the Town of Yarmouth, l^s. yearly.

Of the Abbot of St. Benet's xxvj^s. viij^d.

Of the Prior of St. Faith's xx^s.

¹ Sir William Paston, was born in 1378, became a judge of the Common Pleas, in 1430, and from the propriety of his conduct was called The Good Judge. The following memorandum recorded by his widow of his death deserves notice, as it shows the reverence paid to his corpse, by kneeling at the foot of the bed on which it lay.

"On the thurseday at nyght before ou^r Ladys day the Assūpcon betwixt xj and xij of the clokk in the yer of o^r Lord God MCCCC and xliij, the Sondays l^re on the D, "died my husbond, God assoyle his sowe; and on the fryday after I sent for John Paston, John Dam, &c. and on the Wedynysday after cam John Paston, &c. And on "the fryday John Paston, John Dam, and I yede into the chambre, and they desyred of "me to see the Wyll, I lete them see it; and John Dam redde it, and when he had "redde it, John Paston walkyd up and down in the chamb^e John Dam and I knelyd "at the beddys fete."

Paper Mark. A Fleur de Lys, surmounted by a Coronet. Pl. xxi. N^o. 2.

Of

"and of my ² Lady Rothenhale xx" and of the Prio^r of Nor-
wich x^s and of the Prio^r of Penteney xx^s and of the toun of
Lenn xl^s and of the Prio^r of Walsyngham xx^s and of Kat^rine
³ Shelton x mrc ayeins the Kyng for to be of hir counsell for to
destroie the right of the King and of his Warde that is for to sey
⁴ Raf soon and eyer of John Shelton.

1434. 13 H. VI.

² This sentence in the original has a line drawn over it. She was a widow of Sir John Rothenhale, knight, and dying at Caister, by Yarmouth, in 1440, was buried in Norwich cathedral.

³ Catharine, widow of William Shelton, esq. and daughter of Simon Barret, was grandmother to Ralph, and died in 1456.

⁴ Sir Ralph Shelton, knight, son and heir of John Shelton, esq. was born in 1430, he married Margaret, daughter of Robert Clere, esq. of Ormesby, and was high sheriff of Norfolk,

L E T T E R III.

*To our Right trusty
and hertily Welbeloved
John Paston Squier.*

{ Kat'yn Duchesse }
{ of Norff' }

RIGHT trusty and entierly Welbeloved We grete you wel
hertily as we kan And for as moche as we p^rpose w^t grace
of ihu to be at london wⁱn bryff tyme We pray you y^t your
place ther may be redy for us for we we wole sende our Stuff
thedir

Of my Lady ² Rothenhale xx'.

Of the Prior of Norwich xl'.

Of the Prior of Pentney xx'.

Of the Town of Lynn xl'.

Of the Prior of Walsingham xx'.

And of Katharine ³ Shelton x marks [6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*] against the King for to be of her counfel for to destroy the right of the King and of his Ward, that is for to say, ⁴ Ralph, son and heir of John Shelton.

Paper Mark,
On the Memorandum,
A Fleur de Lys, surmounted
by a Coronet.
Pl. XXI. N^o 2.

Norfolk, &c. in 1487. He died before 1500, and in the east window of the north isle of Shelton church, in Norfolk, were the effigies of him and his wife, in surcoats of their arms. He built both the church and hall, but the latter has been long in ruins.

L E T T E R III.

To our right trusty and heartily well beloved John Paston, Esq.

Katharine, Duchess of Norfolk.

RIGHT trusty and entirely well beloved, we greet you well [as] heartily as we can. And for as much as we purpose with grace of Jesu to be at London within brief [short] time, We pray you that your place there may be ready for us, for we

Vol. III. D will

thedir to for our comyng and fische agrement as we toke w^t you
for the fame we shall duely p^rforme y^t w^t y^e myght of ihu who
haff you in his bliffed keping Wretyn at Eppeworth the ij^{de}.
day of Octobre.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

We here see a lady of the first rank going to London in the beginning of the winter, to the house of one of her dependents, for which she had agreed with him for the time of her stay in town, and by her stuff was meant most probably her beds, hangings, and other matters for the fitting up of her lodgings.

Katharine, duchess of Norfolk, widow of John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, who died in 1433, was daughter of Ralph, lord Neville, first earl of Westmoreland, by Jane, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster.

L E T T E R J U.

*To my Worshepfull husbond
John Paston abidyng at
Petyrbous in Cambrigg.*

RYTH reuerent and worsepful husbon I recomawnde me
to zow w^t alle myⁿ fympyl herte and prey zow to wete y^t
there come up xi hundyr flemyns at Waxhā q^rof wer taky' and
kylte and d'ouchy viij hūdyrte and yⁱ had nowte a be ze xul a be
atte home yis qwesontyde and I suppose y^t ze xul be atte home
er owte lōg be I thanke yow hertely for my lettyr for I hadde
nō

will fend our Stuff thither tofore our coming; and such agreement as we took with you for the same, we shall duly perform it with the might of Jesu, who have you in his blessed keeping.

Written at Epworth the 2d day of October.

Epworth, in Lincolnshire,
in the island of Axholm,
2d of October.
After 1434.

After the duke's death she married in succession, Thomas Strangeways, esq. John viscount Beaumont, and sir John Widville, brother to Anthony, earl Rivers; wife or widow to one of which she most probably was at the time this letter was written: though it might be written during her widowhood as duchess of Norfolk, as it is dated from the late duke's seat at Epworth, or Epleworth.

N. B. An old duchess of Norfolk, is said to have died in 1475, Q^y. if this lady.

L E T T E R IV.

*To my worshipful Husband John Paston, abiding at Peter-
House, in Cambridge.*

RIGHT reverend and worshipful husband, I recommend me to you with all my simple heart, and pray you to weet that there came up eleven hundred Flemings at Waxham, thereof were taken and killed and drenchyn [*drowned*] eight hundred, and they had not have been, ye should have been at home this Whitsuntide, and I suppose that ye should be at home ereout long be.

I thank you heartily for my letter, for I had none of you

D 2

since

nō of zow syn I spooke w^t zow last of for y^e matyr of Jon Mariot y^e qwest passyd nowte of y^t day for my lorde of Norfolke was ī towne for Wedyrbys matyr qwer for he wolde nowtlatyd pafe off for fury^e of I kowe fynche ne bylbyz makey^e no purwyans for hys gode No mor I wryte to zow atte y^{is} tyme but y^e holy trenyte hawe zow ī kepyng Wrety ī Norweche on trenyte Sune day.

Nowr,

Markarpte Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

I can fix no certain date to this Letter, either from this extraordinary account of the destruction of so great a number of Flemings, or from J. Paston's residence at Peter House, in Cambridge, though by this it appears to have been written early in his life, and soon after his marriage, which took place before the year 1440. The words too

"w^t

L E T T E R U.

*To my ryght Worchepful husbond
John Paston dwellyng in y^e inner
Temple at London in hast.*

RYTH worchipful hosbon I recomande me to yow desyryng hertely to her of yo^r wilfar thankyng God of yo^r A mendyng of y^e grete dyfese y^t ye have hade and I thancke yow for y^e lett^r y^t ye sent me for be my trowthe my mod^r and I wer nowth in hertys es fro y^e tyme y^t we wolte of yo^r sekenesse tyl we wolte verely of yo^r A mendyng my mod^r be hestyd a
nodyr

since I spake with you last of for the matter of John Maryot; the Quest passed not off that day, for my Lord of Norfolk was in town for Wedyrby's matter, wherefore he would not let it pass off, for further of I kowe [*know, q.*] Fynch nor Bylbys maketh no purveyance for his good.

No more I write to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, on Trinity Sunday.

Your,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Trinity Sunday.

Date uncertain.

After 1440. 19 H. VI.

"w^t alle m^y sympyl herte" seem the expression of a young and unexperienced woman. The writing and spelling likewise vary from her usual manner; and her Christian name is differently written.

Autograph. Pl. ii. No 20.

L E T T E R V.

To my right worshipful husband John Paston, dwelling in the Inner Temple at London, in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, thanking God of your amending of the great disease that ye have had, and I thank you for the letter that ye sent me, for by my troth my mother and I were nought in heart's case from the time that we wist [*knew*] of your sickness, till we wist verily of your amending.

My

nodyr ¹ ymmage of Wax of y^e weytte of yow to oy^r lady of Walsyngh'm and sche sent iiij nobelys to y^e iiij orderys of frerys at Norweche to pary for yow and I have be hestyd to gon on pylgreymmays to Walsyngh'm and to sent ² levenardys for yow be my trowth I had neu^r so heuy a selyn as I had fro' y^e tyme y^t I wofte of yo^r sekenesse tyl I wofte of yo^r A mendyng And zyth myn hert is in no grete esse ne nowth xal be tyl I wott y^t ze ben very hal yo^r ³ fad^r and myn was dysday sevenyth at bekelys for a matyr of the pryor of Bromholme and he lay at Gerlyston y^t nyth and was y^t tyl it was ix of the cloke and y^t tod^r day And I sentte thedyr for a goune and my mod^r feyde y^t I xulde non have dan tyl I had be y^t a non and so yei cowde non gete. My ⁴ fad^r garneyfs sentte me worde y^t he xulde ben her y^e nexch weke and my Emme Also and pleyn hem her w^t herr hawkys and yei xulde haue me hom w^t hem And so god help me I xal exfouffe me of myn goyng dedyr yf I may for I sopose y^t I xal redelyer have tydyngys from yow herr dan I xulde have y^t I xal sende my mody^r a tokyn y^t sche toke me for I sopose y^e tyme is cum y^t I xulde sendeth her yf I kepe y^e be heft y^t I have made I sopose I have tolde yow wat it was
I pray

This is a most affectionate letter, and cannot be read without emotion; it gives us an high opinion of the writer's tenderness towards her husband, her wish to have him at home, and under her tender care, "lever dan a new goune zow it wer of scarlette" shews the artlessness of her regard, and impresses us with an idea of the purest simplicity.

The Letter was written after the birth of her son, and before the death of sir William Paston, I have therefore fixed it to 1443.

¹ This offering of an image of wax, of the weight of the person for whose good it was promised, is a curious circumstance. The fame of our lady of Walsingham has been before remarked, in Letter VI. Vol. I. p. 21. Note.

² The church of the priory of St. Leonard, at Norwich, was famous at this time for the resort of pilgrims to the images of the holy virgin, the holy cross, and St. Anthony; but

My Mother behested [*vowed*] another ¹ Image of Wax of the weight of you, to our Lady of Walsingham, and she sent four Nobles [*1l. 6s. 8d.*] to the four Orders of Friars at Norwich to pray for you, and I have behested to go on Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and to ² St. Leonard's for you; by my troth I had never so heavy a season as I had from the time that I wist of your sickness, till I wist of your amending, and yet my heart is in no great ease, nor nought shall be, 'till I weet that ye be very whole. Your ³ Father and mine was this day sev'night at Beccles, for a matter of the Prior of Bromholm, and he lay at Gelderstone that night, and was there till it was 9 of the clock, and the other day. And I sent thither for a gown, and my mother said that I should none have then, till I had been there anon, and so they could none get.

My ⁴ Father Garneys sent me word that he should have been here the next week, and mine Emme also, and play them here with their Hawks, and they should have me home with them; and so God help me, I shall excuse me of my going thither if I may, for I suppose that I shall readilier have tidings from you here than I should have there. I shall send my Mother a Token that she took [*brought to*] me, for I suppose the time is come that I should send it her, if I keep the behest that I have made; I suppose I

but became afterwards much more famous by the visitation of pilgrims far and near, to the image of good king Henry VI. by whose miraculous effects great cures were supposed to have been performed.

³ Sir William Paston, the judge.

⁴ This was probably her godfather, and Emme was very likely his daughter or niece, and Margaret Paston's friend. The family of Garneys were at this time lords of Gelderstone; they have continued a family of consequence, and Charles Garneys esq. a descendent from this branch, was high sheriff of Norfolk, in 1777.

I pray yow hertely y^t wol wochesaf to sende me a lett^r as hastely as ze may yf wryhyn be non dyfesse to yow And y^t ye wollen wochesaf to sende me worde quowe yo^r for dott yf I mythe have hade my wylle I xulde a feyne yow er dyfyme I wolde ye wern at hom yf it wer yo^r ese and yo^r for myth ben as wyl lokyth to her as it tys y^t ze ben now lever dan a new goune zow it wer of scarlette I pray yow yf yo^r for be hol and so y^t ze may indur to ryde wan my fad^r com to london y^t ze wol askyn leve and com hom wan y^e hors xul be sentte hom a zeyn for I hope ze xulde be kepte as tend^{ly} herr as ze ben at london I may non leyser have to do wrytyn half a qrt^r so meche as I xulde feyn to yow yf I myth speke w^t yow I xal sende yow a nothyr lett^r as hastely as I may I thanke yow y^t ze wolde wochesaffe to rememb^r my gyrdyl and y^t ze wol de wryte to me at y^e tyme for I sopose y^e wrytyng was non esse to yow All myth God have yow in his kepyn and sende yow helth Wretyn at Oxenede in Ryth grete haft on Sent Mikyllys Evyn.

Yours,

^s M. Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

My Modyr grette yow wel and sendyth yow Goddys blyffing and hers and sche prayeth yow and I pray yow also y^t ye be wel ⁶ dyetyd of mete and drynke for y^t is y^e gretteft helpe yat ye may have now to you^r helthe ward yo^r ⁷ fone faryth wel blyffyd be God.

^s Autograph. Pl. ii. N^o 20.

⁶ This advice seems very proper, and the same would be recommended at this day.

U C C.

have told you what it was ; I pray you heartily that [ye] will vouchsafe to send me a Letter, as hastily as ye may, if writing be none dis ease [pain] to you, and that ye will vouchsafe to send me word how your fore do. If I might have had my will, I should have seen you ere this time ; I would ye were at home, if it were your ease, and your fore might be as well looked to here as it is there ye be, now lever [rather] than a new Gown though it were of Scarlet. I pray you if your fore be whole, and so that ye may endure to ride, when my father come to London, that ye will ask leave and come home when the horse should be sent home again, for I hope ye shall be kept as tenderly here as ye be at London. I may none leisure have to do write half a quarter so much as I should say to you if I might speak with you. I shall send you another Letter as hastily as I may. I thank you that ye would vouchsafe to remember my girdle, and that ye would write to me at the time, for I suppose that writing was none ease to you. Almighty God have you in his keeping, and send you health. Written at Oxnead, in right great haste, on St. Michael's Even.

Yours,

⁵ MARGARET PASTON.

Oxnead.

Saturday, 28th September, 1443. 22 H. VI.

My Mother greet you well, and sendeth you God's blessing and hers ; and she prayeth you, and I pray you also, that ye be well ⁶ dieted of meat and drink, for that is the greatest help that ye may have now to your healthward. Your ⁷ Son fareth well, blessed be God !

⁷ This was most probably Sir John Paston, who was born in 1442.

L E T T E R U J.

*To my right worthy and worshipfull Lord
Will'm Paston Justice in hast.*

PLEASE it yo^r good lordship to wete yat the chief Justice of the Kynggs benche recomaundeth hym to yow and is right sory of ye matier yat is cause of yo^r noun comyng hedir but he wole do al yat he can or may for yow he hath hadde a cyetica yat hath letted hym a gret while to ride and dar not yet come on non horses bak And y' for he hath spoke to ye lordes of ye Con-seill and enformed hem of yo^r sekenesse and his also, yat he may not ride at yese next Afsies to Estgrynsted and yough yoe Afs'ies discontynue pve^r noun venue dez Justicez he hopeth to be excused and ye also And as for ye remen't of ye Afs'ies he shall p'vey to be ther by water And almyghty Jesu make yow heyle and strong Wretyn right simply ye Wednesday next to fore ye fest of the Purificacon of our Lady at London.

By your most symple f'rvaunt,

Jamys Gresh'm

12 by 4-

Paper Mark.

A Bell.

Pl. XXI. No^o 1.

From this Letter we learn the time and place of holding the Assizes in Suffex, one of the Counties which now makes a part of the Home Circuit; and we likewise understand that the Chief Justice intended going by water to those places in Essex, Kent, and Surry, which lay along the river, no conveyance in any carriage being then thought of by him, though his illness was such as prevented his riding on horseback.

L E T

L E T T E R VI.

*To my right worthy and worshipful Lord, William Paſton,
Juſtice, in haſte.*

PLEASE it your good Lordſhip to weet, that the Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench recommendeth him to you, and is right ſorry of the matter that is [*the*] cauſe of your none coming hither, but he will do all that he can or may for you. He hath had a Sciatica that hath letted him a great while to ride, and [*he*] dare not yet come on none horſe's back, and therefore he hath ſpoken to the Lords of the Council, and informed them of your ſickneſs and his alſo, that he may not ride at theſe next Affizes to Eaſt Grinſtead; and though thoſe Affizes diſcontinue pur noun venu dez Juſticez, he hopeth to be excuſed and ye alſo. And as for the remanent of the Affizes, he ſhall purvey to be there by water; and Almighty Jeſu make you heyle [*bealtby*] and ſtrong.

Written right ſimply, the Wednesday next, to fore the feaſt of the Purification of our Lady, at London.

By your moſt ſimple Servant,

¹ JAMES GRESHAM.

London,

Wednesday

30th of January, 1443.

22 H. VI.

John Hody was Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench from 1440 to 1462.

From a Memorandum on the back of this Letter, dated in April 1444, it is probable that it was written on the 30th of January, 1443.

² Autograph. Pl. 111. N^o 28.

L E T T E R U I I I.

*To ye worthy and worshipfull
Sr and my good lord and maister
William Paston on of ye
Justices of oure sovereign lord
of his Co'e benche at Westm^r.*

RIGHT worthy and worshipfull Sr and my good lord and
maister I recomaund me to yow And where as ye by
your l're direct to my lady your wyf wold y^t my seid Lady shuld
have Rob't Tebald and me to geder as sone as she myght and ye
evidences which ye seid Rob't receyved of yow at your last
beyng at Norwich And y^t I shuld amende ye defautes y^jnne
And y^t y^t doon yere shuld of baxteres place of Honyng be taken
estate to yow and to oyer as your seid l're requireth Prey and
beseche yow to witte y^t on ye Friday next after your dep'tyng
fro Paston Thom^s Walysh and William Burgh in his owen
p'sone and ye seid Thom^s by William Inges and William Wal-
fyngh'm his attornes by his l're under his seal where at Honyng
and delyvred to my lady Scarlet seson in ye seid place and
Colbyes and Dennynges in Walfsh'm And ye seid Thom^s

As I have been requested by several gentlemen of the law to publish whatever Letters
at all related to proceedings wherein any hints towards titles to estates, &c. were given,
I have inserted the above; the latter part of the Letter furnishes us with one of the deli-
cacies eaten during Lent, and informs us that an eminent physician lived at this time at
Orwell, in Cambridgeshire.

Walysh.

L E T T E R VII.

*To the worthy and worshipful Sir, and my good Lord and Master
William Paston, one of the Justices of our Sovereign Lord, of
his Common Bench at Westminster.*

RIGHT worthy and worshipful Sir, and my good Lord and Master, I recommend me to you; and whereas ye by your Letter direct [*directed*] to my Lady your wife, would that my said Lady should have Robert Tebald and me together, as soon as she might, and the evidences which the said Robert received of you at your last being at Norwich, and that I should amend the defaults therein, and that done, there should of Baxter's Place of Honing be taken estate to you and to other, as your said Letter requireth. [*I*] pray and beseech you to weet, that on the Friday next after your departing from Paston, Thomas Walysh and William Burgh in his own person, and the said Thomas, by William Inges and William Walsyngham, his attornies by his letter under his seal, were at Honing, and delivered to my Lady Scarlet feisin in the said place, and Colby's and Donning's in Walsham. And the said Thomas

I believe the writer was the father of Sir William Jenney, a Judge of the King's Bench in 1477, and died about 1460.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 1.

Walysh,

Walyfsh as ye feid Tebald told me wold not enseale ye feid l're of attorne til ye p'son of Ingeworth come to hym y'fore and required hym to don it Wychyngh'm in his owen p'sone in ye nyght next beforn ye feid friday as ye feid Tebald infourmeth me come to ye same Tebaldes hows and desired hym to enseale acquytaunce as he feid and ye same Rob't refused to don it nerthe lesse whether it were acquytaunce or were not ye same Rob't kan not seye for he myght noo sight have y' of And ye feid Wychyngh'm ye same nyght rood to John Willyot and desired of hym ye same and refused Also to don it What is ye best to be don in yis matier my feid lady your wyf kan not thynke with owt your advis and counseile Wherfore as touchyng ye takyng of yestate to yow and oyer as in your feid l're is conteigned is yet right nought doon The holy Trinite have yow in his blissed kepyng Wretyn at North Walsh'm ye Thursday next after ye purificacon of oure Lady.

My feid Lady your wyf preyeth yow to be remembred of here grene gynger of Almondes for lente and of the leche of Orwelde for here seknes encrefeth dayly upon here whereof she is fore a ferd.

By youre f'vūt,

John Spney.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. viii. N° 2.

An Octangular Seal, having
a Merchant's Mark.
Pl. xxiii. N° 3.

LET

Walyshe, as the said Tebald told me, would not enseal the said letter of attorney till the Parson of Ingworth come to him therefore, and required him to do it. Wychyngham in his own person in the night next before the said Friday, as the said Tebald informeth me, come to the same Tebald's house, and desired him to enseal acquittance, as he said, and the same Robert refused to do it.

Nevertheless whether it were acquittance or were not, the same Robert cannot say, for he might no fight have thereof; and the said Wychyngham the same night rode to John Willyot and desired of him the same, and [*he*] refused also to do it. What is the best to be done in this matter, my said Lady your wife cannot think without your advice and counsel; wherefore as touching the taking of the estate to you and other, as in your said letter is contained, is yet right nought done.

The Holy Trinity have you in his blessed keeping. Written at North Waltham, the Thursday next after the Purification of our Lady.

My said Lady your wife, prayeth you to be remembered of her green ginger of Almonds for Lent, and of the Leech [*Physician*] of Orwell, for her sickness encreaseth daily upon her, whereof she is sore afraid.

By your Servant,

JOHN GYNEY, [*Jenney*]

North Waltham,
Thursday February,
before 1444.

LET-

L E T T E R U I I I I.

*To Edmond Paston
of Clyffordis jinne in
london be this l're take.*

TO myn welbelovid sone I grete yow wel and avyse yow to thynkk onis of the daie of youre fadris counseyle to lerne the lawe for he seyde manie tymis that ho so ev' schuld dwelle at Paston schulde have nede to conne defende hym selfe the ¹ Vikare of Paston and yowre ² fadre in lenttyn laste was wher thorwe and acordidde and doolis sette howe broode the weye schuld ben and nowe he hath pullid uppe the doolis and feithe he wolde makyn a dyche fro the corner of his walle ryght over the weye to the newe dicke of the grete cloose And there is a man in truntche hyzht Palmer to y^t hadde of yowre fadre certein londe in truntche ov^r vij yere or viij yere agoone for corn And trewli hathe paide all the yers And now he hathe suffrid the corne to ben w^t sette for viij^s of rentte to Gymmyng^h m^wich yowre fadre paide nevere Geffreie axid Palmere why the rentte was notte axid in myn husbonddis tyme And Palmere seyde for he was a grete man and a wyse man of the lawe And that was the Cawse men wolde not axe hym the rentte I fende yow the namis of the men that kaste down the pittis that was Gynnis Close wretyn in a bille clofid in this lettre I fendde yow

We see that the same little contentions took place amongst neighbours in the times here treated of, as too frequently happen at this day.

not

L E T T E R VIII.

To Edmund Paston, of Clifford's Inn, in London, be this Letter taken.

TO mine well beloved Son, I greet you well, and advise you to think once of the day of your father's counsel to learn the law, for he said many times that whosoever should dwell at Paston, should have need to con [*to know how to*] defend himself.

The ¹ Vicar of Paston and your ² Father, in Lent last was, were thorough and accorded, and doles set how broad the way should be, and now he hath pulled up the doles, and saith he will make a ditch from the corner of his wall, right over the way to the new ditch of the great close. And there is a man in Trunch hight [*called*] Palmer too, that had of your father certain lands in Trunch over seven years, or eight years ago, for corn, and truly hath paid all the years; and now he hath suffered the corn to be withset [*taken*] for eight shillings of rent to Gimmingham, which your father paid never; Geoffry asked Palmer why the rent was not asked in mine husband's time, and Palmer said, for [*because*] he was a great man, and a wise man of the law, and that was the cause men would not ask him the rent.

I fend you the names of the men, that cast down the pit, that was (*in*) Genney's Close, written in a bill closed in this Letter.

¹ John Partrick, of Swathfield, was vicar of Paston, from 1442 to 1447.

² Sir William Paston, knight, died 13th of August 1444, aged 66.

not this lettre to make yow wery of Paston for I leve in hoope
And ye wolle lern that they schulle be made werye of her werke
for in good feyth I dar welfeyne it was yowr fadris laste wille to
have do ryzht wel to that plase And that can I schewe of good
p'fe thowe men wolde seye naye god make yow ryzht a good
man and sende goddis bleffing and myn Wrettyn in haste at
Norwich the thorsdaie aftir Candelmasse daie.

Wetith of yowre brothere John how manie Gyftis wolle
serve the parle' and the Chapelle at Paston And what lenththe
they moſte be and what brede and thykkneſſe thei moſte be for
yowre fadris wille was as j weene veryli that thei ſchuld be ix
³ enchis on wey And vij another weye And po'venthe therfor
that thei mow be ſquarid there And ſentte hedre for here can non
ſoche be hadde in this conttre And ſeye to yowre brothir John
it weer wel don to thinkke on Stanſted ⁴ Chirche And I p'ye
yow to ſende me ⁵ tydynggs from be yond ſee for here thei arn
a ferde to telle ſoche as be reportid.

By yowr Modre,

⁶ Hugnes Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7.

Paper Mark,

A Bull's or Goat's Head.

Pl. x. N^o 8.

³ These dimensions were for very substantial work, and shew the care and attention of the Testator to have his habitation to endure for a great length of time;—the vestiges only of these buildings now remain, in which these strong joists were to be placed.

LET

I fend you not this Letter to make you weary of Paston, for I live in hope, and ye will learn that they shall be made weary of their work, for in good faith I dare well say it was your father's last will to have done right well to that place, and that can I shew of good proof though men would say nay. God make you right a good man, and send God's blessing and mine. Written in haste at Norwich, the Thursday after Candlemas-day.

Weet of your brother John how many joists will serve the parlour and the chapel at Paston, and what length they must be, and what breadth and thickness they must be, for your father's will was, as I ween verily that they should be nine ³ inches one way, and seven another way, and purvey therefore that they may be squared there, and sent hither, for here can none such be had in this country; and say to your brother John it were well done to think on ⁴ Stansted church; and I pray you to send me ⁵ Tidings from beyond sea, for here they are afraid to tell such as be reported.

By your Mother,

⁶ AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,

Thursday, 4th of February,

1444-5. 23 H. VI.

⁴ Stansted Church in Suffolk—Dame Agnes had possessions in that parish.

⁵ These tidings relate to our foreign transactions, the giving up of Maine, Truces, &c. on the King's marriage, which had taken place in November.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 19.

L E T T E R II.

*To the most rev'rent fad^r in god
the Archebifshop of C'untrbury
Ch'nceler of Englon.*

BESECHETH mekely zour Gracious lodship zour owne
f^rv'nt and Oratour John Hauteyn Chapeleyn that When
he hath dyv's feutees and accons in lawe to be sewed a zent. A.
that was the wife of W. Paston of the man^r of Oxenedes in the
Countee of Northfolk and for as meche as zour seid besecher can
gete no Counsell of men of co't to be w^t hym in the seid mat's
by cause that the seid W. P. was one of the kynges Justices And
John P son and heir to the seid W P is al so a mon of Court
That hit plese zour good lordship to assigne and most streytly to
Comaund ¹ John Heydon ² Thomas Lyttylton and John Oel-
ston to be of Counsell w^t zour seid besecher in the seid mat's
and oder that he hath to do azenst the seid Anneys and oder and
zour said besecher shal contente hem well for their labor And
that this be doo in the rev'ence of god and wey of Charite.

³ John Hauteyn, Chapeleyn.

1:1 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5.

The manor of Oxnead had been in the Hauteyn family for many generations, and was sold by some of that family upon a bad title; it was afterwards purchased by Sir William Paston, on whose death, in 1444, John Hauteyn Clerk, (having been licensed by the pope to leave his religious order and become secular,) set up his claim and recovered his inheritance, but about 1449 he with others released his right to Agnes Paston.

¹ A Lawyer and Recorder of Norwich.

UCC

L E T T E R IX.

To the most reverend father in God, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

BESEECHETH meekly your gracious Lordship, your own fervant and orator John Hauteyn, Chaplain, that where(*as*) he hath divers suits and actions in law to be sued against Agnes, that was the wife of William Paston, of the manor of Oxnead, in the County of Norfolk; and for as much as your said beseecher can get no counsel of men of court to be with him in the said matters, because that the said W. Paston was one of the King's Justices, and John Paston son and heir to the said W. Paston is also a man of Court, that it please your good Lordship to assign, and most strictly to command ¹ John Heydon ² Thomas Lyttylton and John Olston to be of counsel with your said beseecher in the said matters, and other that he hath to do against the said Agnes and other, and your said beseecher shall content them well for their labour, and that this be done in the reverence of God, and way of Charity.

³ JOHN HAUTEYN, Chaplain.

About 1445.

² Afterwards the famous Judge Lyttelton.

³ Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 2.

This backwardness of the Lawyers to be concerned against the Widow of the late Judge, shews a particular degree of respect to his memory, and to the character of his Son, then a Lawyer.

John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury, and a Cardinal, was Lord Chancellor from 1443 to 1447.

L E T T E R X.

*To my right worchepfull**Cosyn Agnes Paston.*

RIGHT worchepfull Cosyn I comand me to you and as for the mater that ye sent to me fore touchyng the Man^r. callid Walsfams in Walsham the trouth is youre Husbond soldyt to my moder upon condit'on that she shuld nev^r sel it but to youre Sones John or William and for the fuerthe of the seid condit'on youre seid husbond as I conseyyve ded the seid Man^r. be charged with a gret annuyte upon the same conditon or the tyme that my seid moder toke estate of the which I suppose ye shall fynde sufficient evydens if ye serge youre evydences therfor And I be seche almyty God kepe you wretyn at Geddyng the xv day of Septemb'r.

W^r Cosyn, Sr Roger

12 by 4.

Chamberleyn.

This Letter is so far curious, as it informs us of the conditions under which Estates were purchased, and strongly marks the inherent desire which Families have, that Estates once in their possession, should again revert to their descendents.

L E T

L E T T E R X.

To my right worshipful Cousin, Agnes Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Cousin, I commend me to you, and as for the matter that ye sent to me for, touching the Manor called Walslams, in Walsham, the truth is, your husband sold it to my Mother upon condition that she should never sell it but to your Sons John or William; and for the surety of the said condition, your said husband, as I conceive, did [*caused*] the said Manor [*to*] be charged with a great annuity upon the same condition, ere the time that my said Mother took estate, of the which I suppose ye shall find sufficient evidence, if ye search your evidences therefore. And I beseech Almighty God keep you; Written at Gedding, the xvth day of September.

Your Cousin,

Sir ROGER CHAMBERLEYN.

Gedding, Suffolk,

15th of September.

After 1444. 22 H. VI.

but in what year uncertain.

The Chamberlaynes were a Family of consequence in Suffolk and Norfolk. The Subscription under his own hand is particular, having the title Sir before the names.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 3.

LET-

L E T T E R XJ.

*Tho my wele be lovdy Son
John Paston be yis delyv'ed
in haste.*

SONNE I grete zow wele and lete zow wete y^t for as myche as zoure broyir Clement leteth me wete y^t ze desyre feythfully my blyssyng y^t blyssyng y^t I prayed zoure fadir to gyffe zow y^e laste day y^t ev^r he spakke. And y^e blyssyng of all seyntes undir heven and myn mote come to zow all dayes and tymes And thynke veryly non oy^r but y^t ze have it And shal have it w^t yat y^t I fynde zow kynde and wylling to y^e wele of zoure fadres soule and to ye welfare of zoure breyeren Be my conseyle dyspose zoureselfe as myche as ze may to have lesse to do in y^e worlde zoure fadye sayde jn lityl bysynes lyeth muche reste yis world is but a yorough fare and ful of Woo And whā we departe y^rfro rizth nouzght bere w^t us but oure good dedys and ylle And y^r knoweth no man how soon god woll clepe h^y And y^r for it is good for ev^y creature to be redy qhom god vyfyteth hⁱ he loveth. And as for zoure breyeren yei wylle I knowe certeynly laboren all y^t in h^e lyeth for yow. Oure lorde have zow in his blyssed kepyng body and soule. Writen at Norwyche y^e xxix day of Octobyr,

Be zoure Modir,

12 by 4.

A. P.

This Letter I should suppose was written not long after Sir William Paston's death in 1444, as it refers to the blessing which she asked of him to bestow upon his Children, probably immediately after some sickness or misfortune which had befallen her Son.

The style of it is that of a most affectionate Mother, and the introduction of his Father's saying is a masterly stroke. Her own reflections are judicious, apposite, and well timed,
and

L E T T E R XI.

To my well beloved Son, John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

SON, I greet you well, and let you weet, that for as much as your brother Clement letteth me weet that ye desire faithfully my blessing; that blessing that I prayed your father to give you the last day that ever he spake, and the blessing of all saints under heaven, and mine mote [*must*] come to you all days and times; and think verily none other but that ye have it, and shall have it, with that [*on condition*] that I find you kind and willing to the weal of your Father's soul, and to the welfare of your brethren.

By my counsel dispose yourself as much as ye may to have less to do in the world; your Father said, "In little business lyeth much rest." This world is but a thoroughfare, and full of woe; and, when we depart therefrom, right nought bear with us, but our good deeds and ill; and there knoweth no man how soon God will clepe [*call*] him; and therefore it is good for every creature to be ready. Whom God visiteth him he loveth.

And as for your brethren they will I know certainly labour all that in them lyeth for you. Our Lord have you in his blessed keeping, body and soul. Written at Norwich, the 29th day of October.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,

29th of October.

About or after 1444.

and the whole of the discourse would do honour to a Parent at this day, when our thoughts, manners, and language are so much more refined than they were during the age in which this was written.

Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 19.

VOL. III.

G

L E T-

L E T T E R ¶ III.

A Stevyn Scrope.

WORSCHEPEFUL and my right wel beloved Sone I comaund me to yow and hertily thank yow for yo^r good Av^rtismentys And right well avysed l^res to me sent from tyme to tyme and so pray yow of your good continuance plese it yow to wete yat for as mech as y^r p^rson S^r Thom's Howes cometh up at this tyme by the grevous pursfewte of John Andreus and Heydon to apere be fore ye Right Worschepeful S^r my right wel be loved brother yo^r fadir and other ye kynges Juges of ye Kynges benche I p^ry zow hertily y^t ye wille have in remembraunce for to recomaund me to hym whan ye speke with hym And for to thank hym for his rightful favo^r shewed in S^r Thom's matier and in alle other matiers yat toucheth me wheche ben attained in yat hey Courte And so it lyke yow pray hym of his good continuance And I shal doo serve it unto hym to my symple power for his good wyl to me shewed and to myne And I trust to god yat he shal hold hym plesid And yat it like yow to geve credence to ye seid S^r Thom's of yat he shal

At the bottom, in a hand more modern than that of the letter, is written, "*This Stephen Scrope was sonne to Dame Millicent, late wife to Sir J. Fastolf, and, as seemeth by this L^re, maryed the daughter of Justice Yelverton, whereby the said Sir John called hym brother.*"

This Letter is written in an easy yet respectful style, and the thanks of the writer are hinted in the most delicate manner, for the "*rightful favours*" conferred upon him.

Sir William Yelverton was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench, in 1444. 23 H. VI. and was continued in that high office by Edward IV.

LETTER XII.

To Stephen Scroope.

W^{ORSHIPFUL} and my right well beloved Son, I commend me to you, and heartily thank you for your good advertisements, and right well advised Letters to me sent from time to time, and so pray you of your good continuance.

Please it you to weet, that for as much as the Parson Sir Thomas Howes cometh up at this time by the grievous pursuit of John Andrews and Heydon to appear before the right worshipful Sir, my right well beloved brother, your father, and other the King's Judges of the King's Bench; I pray you heartily that ye will have in remembrance for to recommend me to him, when ye speak with him, and for to thank him for his rightful favour shewed in Sir Thomas's matter, and in all other matters that toucheth me, which be attained in that High Court; and so it like you pray him of his good continuance, and I shall do serve it unto him [*recompence him*] to my simple power for his good will to me shewed, and to mine, and I trust to God that he shall hold him pleased; and that it like you to give credence to the said Sir Thomas of that he shall say to you.

Autograph. Pl. 11. N^o 15.

It appears from a Letter of William Paston, to his brother John Paston, dated 6th of September 1454, that Scroope was then either a Bachelor or Widower, a marriage being in contemplation at that time, between him and their Sister Elizabeth. From the expressions there used, I am apt to believe he was then a Widower. If so, this Letter was written before that year.

G 2

for

sey to zow for my Worschepe and p'fyte And y^r this l're may
recomaund me to my doghtir yo^r wyf be fechyng ye blissed
Trinite to sende yow ye Acomplyshment of yo^r good desyre
Wretyn at Castre ye xxx day of Octobr.

I. f.

10 by 5 1/2.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. viii. N^o 2.

LETTER III.

*To John Paston dwellyng
jn y^e Tempyll at london
be thys letter delyv'd i hast.*

I Grete yow wele and lete yow wete that on y^e sonday befor
sent Edmond After evyn Songe Augnes Ball com to me to
my clofett and Bad me good evyn and Clemēt Spycer w^t hyr
and j acfyd hym what he wold and he askyd me why I had
stoppyd jn y^e kyngs wey and I Seyd to hym j stoppyd no wey
butt myn owyn and askyd hym why he had Sold my lond to
John Ball And he for he was nevyr a cordyd w^t yo^r fadyr and I
told hym if hys fadyr had do as he dede he wold a be a
Chamyd to A feyd as he feyd and all that tyme Waryn Herman
lenyd ovyr the parklos and lystynd what we feyd and feyd y^r y^e
Chaunge was a rewly Chaunge for y^e towne was un do y^rby
and is y^e werse by an C li. And I told hym it was no curtese to
medyll hym jn a mat' Butt if he wer callyd to Councell and
prowdly

for my worship and profit, and that this Letter may recommend me to my daughter your wife, beseeching the blessed Trinity to send you the accomplishment of your good desire.

Written at Caister, the 30th day of Octoer.

JOHN FASTOLF.

Caister,

30th of October.

Between 1444 and 1454. 23 and 33 H. VI.

L E T T E R XIII.

*To John Paston, dwelling in the Temple at London, be this
Letter delivered in haste.*

I Greet you well, and let you weet, that, on the Sunday before Saint Edmond, after even Song, Augnes Ball come to me to my clofet and bad me good even, and Clement Spicer with her; and I asked him what he would; and he asked me why I had stopped in the King's way; and I said to him, I stopped no way but mine own, and asked him why he had sold my land to John Ball, and he swore he was never accorded with your father; and I told him if his father had done as he did, he would have been ashamed to have said as he said; and all that time Waryn Herman leaned over the park close and listened what we said; and said that the change was a rewly [*grievous*] change, for the town was undo [*undone*] thereby, and is the worse by an 100/. And I told him it was no courtesy to meddle him in a matter but if [*unless*] he were called to council; and proudly going forth

prowdly goyn forthe w^t me jn y^e Cherche he feyd the Stoppyng
of y^e Wey xuld coste me xx nobylls and zet it shuld downe
Ageyn And j lete hym wete he y^t putte it downe chull pay
y^rfor Also he feyd y^t it was well don y^t j Sett men to Werke to
¹owle meney whyll I was her butt jn y^e ende I chale lese my
coste than he askyd me why I had a wey hys hey at Walf'm
seyng to me he wold he had wyft it whan it was karryd and
he chuld A lettyd it and j told hym it was myn owyn grownde
and for myn owyn I wold holde it and he bad me take iiij Acr'
And go no ferther and thus Churtly he departyd fro me jn
y^e Cherche zerde and fyt j spacke w^t a ferteyn man and acsyd hym
if he herd owt sey why y^e dyner was mad att Norfolkys howse
and he told me herd sey that ferteyn men had sentt to london
to gete A Comysfyon owt of y^e Chaunstre to putt downe ageyn
y^e Wall and y^e dyk I Receyvyd yor letter by Rob' Reppys thys
day aft^r thys lett^r wretyn thus far I have Red it butt I con' yeve
yow non Aunfwer mor than I have wretyn Save the wyfe of
Harma' hathe y^e name of owr lady whos blyffyn ye have and
myn Wretyn at Paston on y^e day after Sent Edmond.

Be yowyr modyr,

² Agnes Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

L E C

I have given this Letter as a specimen of disputes which frequently arise at present, as well as in former times, when either encroachments are really made by the principal Person in a parish, or when any act is done which appears such to some self-important little owner. Which party was right in this matter is at this distance of time very immaterial; it only shews human nature to have been the same yesterday and to-day.

It may not be entirely foreign to the purpose in this place just to observe, how very beneficial both to the public and to individuals the Act of the 13 Geo. III. is contrived, whereby Roads are ordered to be diverted and turned upon a view of two Justices. This Act certainly gives great power to the Gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace, but as
long

forth with me in the church, he said, the stopping of the way should cost me twenty nobles (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) and yet it should down again. And I let him weet, he that put it down should pay therefore.

Also he said that it was well done that I set men to work to ¹owl many while I was here, but in the end I shall lose my cost. Then he asked me why I had away his hay at Walsham, saying to me he would he had wist it, when it was carried, and he should a letted [*have hindered*] it; and I told him it was mine own ground, and for mine own I would hold it; and he bad me take four acres and go no farther; and thus churtly [*churlishly q.²*] he departed from me in the church-yard; and since I spake with a certain man, and asked him if he heard ought say why the dinner was made at Norfolk's house, and he told me, [*he*] heard say that certain men had sent to London to get a Commission out of the Chancery to put down again the wall and the dyke. I received your Letter by Robert Repps this day, after this Letter (*was*) written thus far; I have read it, but I can give you none answer more than I have written, save the wife of Harman hath the name of our Lady, whose blessing ye have and mine. Written at Paston, on the day after Saint Edmond.

By your Mother,

² AGNES PASTON.

Paston,

17 November, after 1444. 23 H. VI.

long as that Power is directed to the benefit of the public, no one ought to find fault with it; though, if the private Interest of Individuals should often supersede the public convenience, an alarm ought then to be taken, and it will perhaps become necessary to repeal, or at least to alter, an Act wisely planned for the common benefit.

¹ To owl may signify to deceive, as an Owler is a person who carries contraband goods in the night; though I rather think it means in this place to oil, that is to smooth to her purpose, but q.?

² Autograph Pl. 11. N^o 19. Seal imperfect, but see Letter LXXV.

L E T-

L E T T E R III.

*To my right rev^{er}ent mastras
Agnes Paston be yis l^re
delyv^{er}yd in haste.*

RYGH w^{ic}hepful mastres I recomaund me un to yow
thankyng yow of y^e gret chere y^t ze made me ye last
tyme y^t I was w^{it} zow mastres in alle zo^r godys and ocupacyons
y^t lyth in my simpil power to do in wurd wil and dede I have do
my dylygens and my power y^to so I be savyd be fore god and
have owyn to yo^r p^{er}son ryght herty love for ye qwych I am
ryght ille aqwyt And it be as I und^{er}stande y^t for it is do me to
wete y^t I am swid w^{it} mor of my p^{er}yschons For a reskuse
makyng up on ye offycers of ye shrewys And I take god to
record y^t it is wrongfully do on to us And ye gret fray y^t y^e mad
in ye tyme of masse it ravyched my witts and mad me ful hevily
dysposyd I p^{er}y Ihu gef hem g^{ra}ce to repent hem y^t of y^t y^e y^t
caused it may stand owt of p^{er}el of soule Maystras at ye rev^{er}ens
of god and as evyr I may do f^{er}vyece y^t may be plesyng on to yow
send me justyly wurd be ye bryng^r of y^{is} bylle ho ze wil y^t I be
gydyd for it is told me y^t if I be take I may no oy^r remedy
hav^y but streyth to p^{er}son For ye whiche I have sold awaye xx^s
wurth

This letter contains a curious fact. It appears by it that the Sheriff's Officers had arrested a Person in the Church during Mass, and that the Priest and some of the Congregation had rescued him, for which a suit was commenced against them. This shews the power of the Sheriff at this time, when even a Church, during the time of divine service, could

LETTER XIV.

To my right reverend Mistress, Agnes Paston, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Mistress, I recommend me unto you thanking you of the great cheer that ye made me the last time that I was with you; Mistress, in all your goods and occupations that lyeth in my simple power to do in word, will, and deed, I have do [*done*] my diligence and my power thereto, so I be saved before God; and have owen to your person right hearty love, for the which I am right ill acquit [*requited*] and [*if*] it be as I understand it, for it is do [*done*] me to weet, that I am sued with more of my Parishioners, for a rescue making upon the officers of the Sheriff; and I take God to record that it is wrongfully do [*done*] unto us. And the great fray that they made in the time of Mass, it ravished my wits, and made me full heavily disposed; I pray Jesu give them grace to repent them thereof, that they that caused it may stand out of peril of soul.

Mistress, at the reverence of God, and as ever I may do service that may be pleasing unto you, send me justly word, by the bringer of this bill, how ye will that I be guided; for it is told me that, if I be taken, I may no other remedy havyn [*have*] but straight to prison; for the which I have sold away 20s.

The date of this letter cannot be ascertained, though it must have been written after the date of the last letter, as it contains reference to the process against the author. A Murderer or Robber might have claimed sanctuary, but a poor Debtor seems to have had no such privilege.

Autograph Pl. xviii. No 4.

wurth of Stufte and ye refwd of my stuff I have put it in fwier hande For trwly I wil not abyde ye jop'te of ye fwth I have levir to go as far as my Fet may ber me nevir ye less as ze komand me to do so it be not to my gret hurt I wil fulfille it Nomor to zow at y^{is} tyme but god send yow y^t g'ce y^t ze may kome to his blyfs Wreten at bromholm in gret haste.

Be yo^r.

Sr. Robert Willpa'son.

11 1/4 by 4 1/2.

LETTER III.

* A l're to Sr. John

Fastoff from Justice

Yelverton..

MY moste worshypfull and best betrustrd maistr I recōmaund me to yow thankyng yow for manye grete gentlenesse and kyndnesse that ye hafe showed unto me and for the grete ease that I had of your man and your horsys also. As for tydyngs owte of thys Contree here ys a m'veyllous disposed Contree and manye evylle wyllled peple to Sr. Thomas Tuddenh'm and Heydon And but yff they been putt in Comfort there by the

The date of this Letter cannot be ascertained, though it must have been written after 1444, when William Yelverton was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench. He seems to fear a party, in opposition to him, in Norfolk, would injure him with the King and Lords, and therefore wishes for Sir John Fastolf's interference to prevent it.

meene

worth of Stuff, and the residue of my stuff I have put it in
 fure hand, for truly I will not abide the jeopardy of the swth
 [suit,] I have levir [had better] to go as far as my feet
 may bear me; nevertheless as ye command me to do, so it be
 not to my great hurt, I will fulfill it. No more to you at this
 time, but God send you that grace, that ye may come to his blifs.
 Written at Bromholm, in great haste.

By Your,

SIR ROBERT WILLIAMSON.

No certain date,

After 1444. 23 H. VI.

L E T T E R XV.

* *A Letter to Sir John Fastolf, from Justice Yelverton.*

MY most worshipful and best betruſted maſter, I recommend
 me to you, thanking you for many great gentleneſs and
 kindneſs that ye have ſhewed unto me; and for the great eaſe
 that I had of your men and your horſes alſo.

As for tidings out of this country, here is a marvellous diſpoſed
 country, and many evil willed people to Sir Thomas Todenham
 and Heydon, and but if they be put in confort there by the mean

The Judge's Mother was Widow to Robert Clere, and by that means he was half
 brother to Edmund Clere, of Stokesby. Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 94.

* This is written on the back of the Letter, which has no direction, in an ancient
 hand.

meene of a gode Shyreve and Undreshyreve they may have remedye now by the ordre of lawe. And ellys grete inconveniencees arn lyke for to folowe ther off. therfor Sr. for the weele of all our gode Contree mewyth the kyng my lord Chūncell'r and all othyr lordes as ye thynk best for thys matier on thys behalf. Also Sr. yff they noysse me by thee meene of my lord Scalys or by anye othyr meene or by onye bylle sewed by Brygg or by onye othyr man by her Craft that it please yow to sey for me yn fāvacōn of my pore worshyp whych I wote well they may not hurt but they doo me wrongs to the kyng my lord Chūncell'r my lord of Wynchest'r my lord Cromewell and yn othyr places as ye femyth that no credence be goven to myne hurt yn myne absence. Also Sr. that William Geney and Brayn the Clerks of the Sessions ben hastyed hedreward as well as they may And Sr. my Cousyn Paston and my brothyr Cleere can tell yow moch more thyng that j shuld wryte off to yow And I had leyser but j shall wythynne short tyme sende yow more tydyngs owte of thys contree by the grace of god whych have yow yn hys holye kepyng.

By your old Srvaunt,

William Belberton, Justice.

12 by 5 4.

Paper Mark,

Cap and Fleur de Lys.

Pl. viii. No 4.

LET

of a good Sheriff and Undersheriff, they may have remedy now by the order of law, and else great inconveniences are like for to follow thereof; therefore Sir, for the weal of all our good country, move the King, my Lord Chancellor, and all other Lords as ye think best for this matter on this behalf. Also Sir, if they noise me by the mean of my Lord Scales, or by any other mean, or by any bill fued by Brygg, or by any other man by their craft, that it please you to say for me in savation [*salvation*] of my poor worship, which I wot well they may not hurt, but [*unless*] they do me wrongs to the King, my Lord Chancellor, my Lord of Winchester, my Lord Cromwell, and in other places, as ye seemeth, that no credence be given to mine hurt in mine absence. Also Sir that William Jenney and Brayn [*q. Bryan*] the Clerks of the Sessions, be hasted hitherward as well as they may; and Sir my Cousin Paston and my brother Clere can tell you much more thing that I should write of to you, and [*if*] I had leisure, but I shall within short time send you more tidings out of this country, by the grace of God, which have you in his holy keeping.

By your old Servant,

WILLIAM YELVERTON, Justice.

LET-

L E T T E R X I I I.

*To my ryth wrchypful hwsbond
Jon Paston be yis lettyr delyveryd
jn hast.*

RYTH wyrchypful hwsbond I recomawnd me to zw de-
fyrīg hertyly to heryn of z^r wel fare prayīg zw to wete
yat I was w^t my lady ¹Morley on ye Satyrday next aft^r yat ze
dep^ttyd from hens and told here qhat answer y^t ze had of Jon
Butt and sche toke jt ryth strawgely and feyd yat sche had told
z^w and schewyd z^w. j now qher by ze myth haue knowleche y^t ye
releve ow^t to ben payd to her And sche feyd sche wyft wel y^t
ze delay jt forye yat sche xuld nowth haue yat longyth to her
ryth And sche told me hw jt was payd in Thomas Chawmbers
tym qhan her dowl^t haftīgs was weddyd And sche feyd sythyn
yat ze wyl make none end w^t her sche wyl few y^tfore as law wyl
I cōseyvyd be here yat sche had cwnfel to labore azens zw y^tjn
w^tjn ryth schort tym. And yan I prayd her y^t sche wuld
vwche save nowth to labowr azens z^w jn yis mater tyl ze kom
hom and sche feyd nay be her feyth sche wuld no more days
zeve z^w y^tjn sche feyd sche had sett z^w so many days to a kord w^t
her and ze had broke yem yat sche was ryth wery y^tof And sche
feyd

There is nothing particularly interesting to many readers in this long Letter, but as it contains several traits of common life, and such occurrences as daily happen now as well as between three and four centuries ago, I have ventured to give it, as a picture of the transactions of mankind one with another.

¹ Lady Morley was the Daughter of a Lord Spencer or Despencer, and had to her first

L E T T E R XVI.

To my right worshipful husband, John Paston, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet that I was with my Lady Morley on the Saturday next after that ye departed from hence, and told her what answer that ye had of John Butt, and she took it right strangely, and said that she had told you and shewed you enough, whereby ye might have knowledge that the relief ought to be paid to her; and she said she wist well that ye delay it forth that she should not have that longeth [*belongeth*] to her right; and she told me how it was paid in Thomas Chamber's time, when her daughter Hastyns was wedded; and she said since that ye will make none end with her, she will sue therefore as law will.

I conceived by her that she had counsel to labour against you therein within right short time, and then I prayed her that she would vouchsafe not to labour against you in this matter till ye came home, and she said nay by her faith, she would no more days give you therein; she said she had set you so many days to accord with her, and ye had broke them, that she was right

first husband Sir Hugh Hastyns, of Elsing, in Norfolk; after his decease she married Thomas, Lord Morley, and was not his widow, and must have been considerably advanced in age. She seems to have had right on her side, as the Mawteby Estate in Sparham had been granted away by the family of Hastyns, and most probably under a reserved rent or relief.

now

seyd sche was but a woman sche must don be her Cownseyl and her cwnseyle had avysyd her so sche seyde sche wyld do yan I prayd her azyn yat sche would teryn tyl ze kom hom and j seyde I trostyd veryly yat ze wuld don qhan ze kom hom as jtt long^t to z^w to don And if ze myth have very knowleche yat sche awyth of ryth for to haue jtt I seyde I wyft wel yat ze wuld pay jt w^t ryth gode wyl And told her yat ze had fergyd to a fownd wrytyng y'of and ze kwd non fynd in non wyse And sche sayde sche wyft wele y' was wrytyg y'of jnow And sche hath wrytyng y'of hw fyr robert of Mawthby and Sr Jon and my grawnfyre and dyv^rse oy^r of m^y awncest^rys payd jt and seyde nevyre nay y'to. And jn no wyse I kwd not geyn no grawnth of her to sesyn tyl ze kom hom. And sche bad me yat I xuld don an er'nd to my mod^r and qhan I kam hom I dede myn er'nd to her And sche axyd me jf I had spokyn to my lady of yis forseyd mater. And I told her hw I had do and qhat answer I had And sche seyde sche xuld gon to my lady Morles on ye nexst day and sche xuld speken to her y'of and a say to getyn grawnt of her to sesyn of ye forsayd mater tyl yat ze kom hom And t^wly my mod^r dede her dever ryth feythfully y'jn. as my cosyn Clare xal tellyn z^w qhan yat he spek^t w^t z^w And sche gete grawnt of my seyde lady y^t y' xuld nowth ben don azens zw y'in and ze wold acordyn w^t her and don as ze owyn to do be twyx yis tym and t'nyte fūday. Laverawce rede of Mawthby recōmawd^t hym to z^u and prayt z^w yat ze wyl vwchefave to leten hym byn of z^w ye ferm barly yat ze xuld have of hym and if ze wyl laten hym have jt
to

weary thereof; and she said she was but a woman, she must do by her counsel, and [*as*] her counsel had advised her, so she said she will do; then I prayed her again that she would tarry till ye came home, and I said I trusted verily that ye would do when ye came home, as it longeth to you to do, and if ye might have very knowledge that she ought of right for to have it, I said I wist well that ye would pay it with right good will; and told her that ye had searched to have found writing thereof, and ye could none find in none wise; and she said she wist well there was writing thereof enough, and she hath writing thereof how Sir Robert of Mawteby, and Sir John, and my Grandfire and divers other of my ancestors paid it, and said never nay thereto; and in no wise I could not get no grant of her to cease till ye came home; and she bad me that I should do an errand to my mother, and when I came home I did mine errand to her, and she asked me if I had spoken to my Lady of this foresaid matter, and I told her how I had done, and what answer I had; and she said she should go to my Lady Morley's on the next day, and she should speak to her thereof, and essay to get grant of her to cease of the foresaid matter till that ye come home; and truly my mother did her devour [*endeavour*] right faithfully therein, as my Cousin Clere shall tell you when that he speak with you; and she got grant of my said Lady that there should nought be done against you therein, and [*if*] ye would accord with her, and do as ye ought to do betwixt this time and Trinity Sunday.

Laurence Reed of Mawteby recommendeth him to you, and prayeth you that ye will vouchsafe to let him buy of you the farm barley that ye should have of him, and if ye will let him have

to a resonabyll p^rs he wyl have jt w^t ryth a gode wyl and he p^ryit
 z^w jf ze wyl yat he have jt yat ze wyl owche save to send hym
 w^rd at qhat p^rs he xuld have ye kowmb as haftyly as ze may
 And ellys he must be purvayd in oy^r plase. As twchyg oy^r
 tydys I sopoſe Jon of Dam xal ſend z^w w^rd jn a lett^r. As jt js
 told me veryly Heydon xal not kom at London yⁱs term. It is
 ſeyd jn yis Contre yat Danyell js owth of ye kys gode graſe and
 he xal dwn and all hys mene and all y^t ben hys wele wyllers y^r
 xal no man ben ſo hardy to don ney^r ſeyn azens my lord of
 * Sowthfolk nere non yat long^t to hym And all yat hau^t don
 and ſeyd azens hym yey xul fore repent hem. Katern Walsam
 xal be weddyd on ye mūday nexſt aft^r. tⁿyte ſonday as it is told
 me to ye galau^te w^t ye grete ³ chene And y^r js p^rvayd for her
 meche gode aray of gwnys gyrdelys and atyrys and meche oy^r
 gode aray And he hathe p^rcheysyd a gret purcheyſ of v mark
 be zer to zevyn her to her joynture.

I am aferd yat Jon of * Sp^rh^m is ſo ſchyttyl wyttyd yat he wyl
 ſett hys gode to morgage to Heydon or to ſū oy^r of ywre gode
 frendys but if I can hold hym inne ye bett^r ere ze kom hom he
 hath ben areſtyd ſythyn yat ye went and hath had moche ſorw at
 ye ſewte of mayſt^r Joh Stoks of Lōdon for x mark y^t Sp^rham
 owt to hym, and in gode feyth he hath had ſo moche ſorow and
 hevynesse yat he wyſt nowth qhat he myth don I fell hym ſo

* At this time William de la Pole, Marquis of Suffolk, received the greateſt marks of
 favour from the Queen, and was very ſoon after the writing of this Letter created Duke
 of Suffolk.

it to a reasonable price, he will have it with right a good will, and he prayeth you if ye will that he have it, that ye will vouchsafe to send him word at what price he should have the Comb as hastily as ye may, and else he must be purveyed in other place.

As touching other tidings, I suppose John of Damme shall send you word in a Letter. As it is told me verily Heydon shall not come at London this term.

It is said in this Country that Daniel is out of the King's good grace, and he shall down and all his men, and all that be his well willers, there shall no man be so hardy to do neither say against my Lord of ² Suffolk, nor none that longeth to him, and all that have done and said against him, they shall sore repent them. Katharine Walsham shall be wedded on the Monday next after Trinity Sunday, as it is told me, to the galant with the great ³ chain; and there is purveyed for her much good array of Gowns, Girdles, and Attires, and much other good array, and he hath purchased a great purchase of five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) by the year to give her to her jointure.

I am afraid that John of ⁴ Sparham is so schyttyl [*light*] witted, that he will set his goods to mortgage to Heydon, or to some other of your good friends, but if [*unless*] I can hold him in the better, ere ye come home; he hath been arrested since that ye went, and hath had much sorrow at the suit of Master John Stokes of London for ten marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) that Sparham owed to him; and in good faith he hath had so much sorrow and heaviness that he wist not what he might do; I feel

³ It appears that chains of gold were at this time worn as ornaments of dress, and that this gallant out-did his contemporaries in the size of his.

⁴ The Sparhams were an ancient family, residing at Sparham, in Norfolk: this was the last male of that branch, and seems with himself to have finished his estate, &c.

disposyd yat he wold asold and asett to morgage all yat he hath he had nowth rowth to qhom so yat he myth an had mony to an holpyn hym self wyth, and I entretyd hym so yatt I sopoſe he wyll noy^r ſellyn ner ſett to morgage noy^r catel ner oy^r gode of heſe tyl he ſpeke w^t zw he ſopoſeth yat al yat is don to hym is att ye request of ye p[']ſon of Sp[']h[']m and Knatyſſale. I ſopoſe it is almas to cōfort hym for in gode feyth he is ryth hevy and hys wyf al ſo he is nowth nw und^r areſt he hath payd hys feys and goth at large he was areſtyd att Sp[']h[']m of on of Knatyſſales men. Hodge Feke told me yatt Sym Schepherd is ſtyl w^t Wyly and if ze wyl I xal p[']vey y^t he xal be browth hom er ze kom hom. It is told me yat he yatk ept z^r ſchep was owth lawyd on mūday at ye ſwth of S^r. Thom's Tod^yh[']m, and if it be ſo ze arn nowth lyk to kepe hym longe, and as twchyng y^t yat ze badeyn me ſpekyn for to Bakton he ſeyth he is wel avyſyd yat ſche ſeyd ſche wuld nev^r have to don w^t all ner he kan not pek yat ſche hath non ryth to have it, and he wyl ſay lyche as he hath herd her ſeyd, and if ſche ſpeke to hym y^rof he wyll ray^r hold w^t z^w yan w^t her, I p[']y ye y^t ze wyl vwche ſave to ſend me wd hw ze ſpede in z^r matt['] twchyng Greſſam and hw Danyel is in grace, Herry Goneld hath browth to me xl s. of Greſſam ſyn ze zede and he ſeyth I xal have more or qhythſon tyd if he may pyk it up, I ſopoſe Jamys Greſſam hath told z^w of oy^r th^ygs y^t I have ſped ſyn ze zedyn hens, If I her any ſtraw'ge tyd^ygs in y^t contre I xall ſend z^w w^d, I p[']y zw y^t I may ben recom'awdyd to my lord Danyel.

Ye

him so disposed that he would have sold and have set to mortgage all that he hath, he had not rowth [*cared*] to whom, so that he might have had money to have holpen himself with; and I entreated him so, that I suppose he will neither sell nor set to mortgage, neither cattle nor other goods of his, till he speak with you; he supposeth that all that is done to him is at the request of the parson of Sparham and Knatysale. I suppose it is alms to comfort him, for in good faith he is right heavy, and his wife also; he is not now under arrest, he hath paid his fees, and goeth at large; he was arrested at Sparham, of one of Knatysale's men.

Hodge Feke told me that Sym Shepherd is still with Wylly, and if ye will I shall purvey that he shall be brought home ere ye come home. It is told me that he that kept your sheep, was outlawed on Monday, at the suit of Sir Thomas Todenham, and if it be so, ye are not like to keep him long. And as touching that, that ye bad me speak for to Baſton, he saith he is well advised that she said she would never have to do with all, nor he cannot pick that she hath none right to have it, and he will say like as he hath heard her say, and if she speak to him thereof, he will rather hold with you than with her. I pray you that ye will vouchsafe to send me word how ye speed in your matter touching Gresham, and how Daniel is in grace. Harry Goneld hath brought to me 40s. of Gresham since ye went, and he saith I shall have more ere Whitsuntide, if he may pick it up.

I suppose James Gresham have told you of other things that I have sped since ye went hence. If I hear any strange tidings in this country I shall send you word. I pray you that I may be recommended to my lord Daniel.

The

Ye holy trynyte have z^w jn hys kep̄yng and fend z^w helth and gode spede jn al z^r maters twchyng z^r ryth. Wretyn at norwyche on ye wedenys day nexst aft^r yatt ze p^rtyd hens.

Yors,

5 Margarete Paston.

11 ½ by 11.

Paper Mark,

A Bull.

Pl. ix. N^o 10.

5 Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 20.

LETTER XIII.

To the King oure Sou^rayn lord,

SHEWETH and pitevously Compleyneth youre humble trewe obeisantes Comunas of this youre nobile Reaume in this youre p^rsent p^rlement by yo^r high Autorite Assembled for the seurte of yo^r moste high and Royall p^rsone and y^e welfar of this yo^r nobile Reaume and of yo^r trewe liege peple of the same That Will^m de la Pole Duke of Suff. late of Ewelme in the Counte of Oxenford falsly and treyterously hath ymaged Compasfed purposid forethought done and cōmytted diu^rs high grete heynous and horrible treasons ayenst yo^r most Roiale p^rsone youre Coronas of yo^r Raumes of England and Fraunce your Duchice of Guyan and Normandie and youre holde en-heritaunce

The holy Trinity have you in his keeping, and send you health and good speed in all your matters touching your right. Written at Norwich, on the Wednesday next after that ye parted hence.

Yours,

⁵ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Wednesday,

April, 1448.

26 H. VI.

On the back of this Letter is endorsed "Lit^re t^rm'o pasche A^o. xxvj." and in a more modern hand "Relief demaunded by the Lady Morley, for the Manno^r of Sparham."

L E T T E R XVII.

To the King our Sovereign Lord,

SHEWETH and piteously complaineth your humble true obeisant Commons of this your noble Realm, in this your present Parliament, by your high authority assembled for the surety of your most high and royal Person, and the welfare of this your noble Realm, and of the true liege people of the same, that William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, late of Ewelme, in the County of Oxford, falsely and traiterously hath imagined, compassed, purposed, forethought, done, and committed, divers high, great, heinous, and horrible treasons against your most royal person, your Crowns of your realms of England and France, your Duchies of Guyenne and Normandy, and your
old

heritaunce of yo^r Countee of Anjoye and Mayne the estate and dignite of y^e same And y^e onnu'fall wele and p'sp'ite of all yo^r trewe f'bgettes of Raunnes and Counte in man^r and forme enfewyng.

First the seid Duke y^e xx^{ti} Day of Juy^{ll} the xxv yere of youre bliffid regne in youre Citee of london in the p'rich of Sepulcr in the ward of faringdon infra ymagynyng and p'posing falsly and t'yterously to distroy yo^r moſte Roiall p'sone And this yo^r seid Realme thenne and ther t'yterously excited Councelled p'uoked and Comforted the Erle of ¹Donas of Orli-
aunce Bertrande lord Preffigny maistr Will'm Cusinet enemys to you Sou'ayne lord and other yo^r enemyes subgettes and ambaffi-
ato's to ²Charles calling hem selfe king of Fr'unce your grettys Adu'sarie and enemey to meve Councell ſter and p'voke the
ſame Charles to come in to this yo^r Realme to leve reife and

This being an authentic Copy of the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against the Duke of Suffolk, taken at the time, I thought them too curious not to be laid before the public, though the purport of them may be found in ſeveral of our Histories of that period.

Theſe Articles were exhibited in the beginning of February, 1449-50, when the Duke was committed to the Tower, where his confinement was but ſhort; as, upon the adjournment of the Parliament to meet at Leiſceſter in April, he then appeared there in his uſual poſt, as prime Miniſter.

I cannot help taking notice of the words of the laſt ſentence of the firſt charge, "Wheruppon the ſame Duke of Suff^r ſith y^e tyme of heis areſte hath do [*that is, hath* "cauſed"] the ſeid Margarete to be married to heis ſeid Sonne."

From theſe words it plainly appears that the Duke immediately upon his arreſt cauſed the marriage between his Son and the Lady Margaret to be ſolemnized.

I do not find that any of our Hiſtorians mention this as a matter which actually took effect, but only as a matter which the Duke had in contemplation, the Lady at this time being only eight or nine years old. Moreover had this marriage been then really ſolemnized, it muſt have affected not only the legitimacy of the Duke's children, but alſo the legitimacy of the Lady Margaret's Son, Henry VII. as John, Duke of Suffolk (the perſon here mentioned as her huſband) lived till 1491; and ſhe married Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and by him had her Son Henry, (afterwards Henry VII.) about 1455.

make

old inheritance of your Counties of Anjou and Maine, the estate and dignity of the same, and the universal weal and prosperity of all your true subjects of realms and counties in manner and form ensuing.

First, the said Duke the 20th day of July, the 25th year of your blessed reign (1447) in your city of London, in the parish of Sepulchre, in the Ward of Faringdon infra, imagining and purposing falsely and traiterously to destroy your most royal person, and this your said realm, then and there traiterously excited, counselled, provoked, and comforted the Earl of ¹Denas (*Bastard*) of Orleans, Bertrand, Lord Preffigny, Master William Cusinet enemies to you sovereign Lord, and other your enemies, subjects and ambassadors to ²Charles, calling himself King of France, your greatest adversary and enemy, to move, counsel, stir, and provoke the same Charles to come into this your realm to

The renowned Lady Margaret here mentioned, was the only daughter and heir of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. She married Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, by whom she was the Mother of our King Henry VII. After the decease of this Earl she was successively the Wife of Henry Stafford, younger Son of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, and Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby; after which last marriage she engaged herself in a vow of celibacy, and spent her time in prayer, alms giving, and founding Colleges. She died in 1509, when about 70 years old.

If the Reader wish to examine the several charges here brought forward, he is referred to the Historians, who treat of the transactions of the period above mentioned; I have here produced to him an authentic Copy of the several Articles upon which, with their assistance, he will be enabled to form his own opinion.

The Copy in my possession is thus endorsed,

“Coūpleyntys ayens the Dewke of Suffolk.”

¹ John Bastard of Orleans, Count of Dunois, a natural Son of Lewis, Duke of Orleans, and natural brother to Charles, was born in 1402; he acquired great renown in the French wars against the English, and died loaded with years, honours, and wealth in 1470.

² Charles VII. King of France, was born in 1402, and died in 1461.

make open werr ayenst yo^r sou'ayne lord and alle this yo^r Reaume w^t a grete puissaunce And Arme to distroy yo^r most Roiall p^rsonne And your trewe f^bgettes of the same Realme to the entente to make John sone of ye same Duke of this yo^r seid Realme And to depose you of your heigh regalie therof the same Duke of Suff^r hauyng thenne of yo^r g^unte the ward and mariage of Margarete Doughter and heire to John late the Duke of Som^rset p^posing here to marey to heis said sonne p^sumig and p^ttendyng her to be nexte enheritable to the Corone of this yo^r Realme for lak of issue of you sou'ayn lord in Accomplisshement of heis seid t^ytours p^pose and entent Wheroppon the same Duke of Suff. sith ye tyme of heis Areste hath do the seid Margarete to be married to heis seid Sonne.

It'm the seid Duke of Suff. being most trostid w^t you and prevyest of your Councell of fullong tyme p^pensyng y^t yo^r seid grete Enemeye And Adu^sarie Charles schuld Conquerr and gete be power and myght yo^r seid Realme of Fraunce Duchies and Countee the xx^{ti} Day of January the xvij. yer of your regne at Westm^r in ye shir of Midd^r And diu's othir tymes and places w^tin yo^r seid Realme of Engeland falsly t^yterously by fotel menes and ymaginacyons for grete corrupcion of good taking of money and other excessyf p^mises to him made by Charles Duke of ³Orliaunce your enemye coucelled and ftered of hym selfe only yo^r heighnesse to enlarge and deliue' out of p^rson the same Duke of Orliaunce enemye to you sou'en lord And to y^e most

³ Charles, Duke of Orleans and Milan, born in 1391, was taken prisoner at the battle of Agincourt, in 1415, and continued in England as such till 1440, when he was released; he died in 1465.

victorious.

levy, raise, and make open war against you sovereign Lord, and all this your realm with a great puissance and army to destroy your most royal person, and your true subjects of the same realm to the intent to make John son of the same Duke (*King*) of this your said realm, and to depose you of your high regality thereof, the same Duke of Suffolk having then of your grant the ward and marriage of Margaret, Daughter and heir to John, late the Duke of Somerset, purposing her to marry to his said son, presuming and pretending her to be next enheritable to the crown of this your realm, for lack of issue of you sovereign Lord, in accomplishment of his said traitor's purpose and intent, whereupon the same Duke of Suffolk sith the time of his arrest hath do [*caused*] the said Margaret to be married to his said son.

Item, the said Duke of Suffolk being most trusted with you, and priviest of your counsel of full long time prepenſing [*pre-meditating*] that your said great enemy and adversary Charles should conquer and get by power and might your said realm of France, Duchies, and Counties the 20th day of January, the 17th year of your reign (1438) at Westminster, in the shire of Middlesex, and divers other times and places within your said realm of England, falsely, traiterously, by subtle means and imaginations, for great corruption of good, taking of money, and other excessive promises to him made by Charles, Duke of Orleans your enemy, counselled and steered of himself only, your highness to enlarge and deliver out of prison the same Duke of Orleans, enemy to you sovereign Lord, and to the

victorious noble prince of blyssid memory the king youre fadir
whom god assoile takyn be hem p'fonere to thentent y^e ye seid
Charles Calling hym self King of Fr'unce schuld recoue' gete
and haue be false Conqueste and other defayvabile menes ayenst
you yo^r heirz And successo's yo^r seid Realme of Fr'unce Duches
and Counte be the wyle subtile Councell might and ayde of the
seid Duke of Orliaunce Notwithstanding that be y^e late wylle and
ordinaunce of yo^r seid fadir for diu's thingis moveyng his
grete wysdome contrary ther of was avysed and declared by
wiche Councell and stering only of ye seid Duke of Suff. y^e
seid Duke of Orliaunce was soberd at his liberte to dep'te of
of this youre Realme to the p'tee of Fr'unce afore wich dep'ter
the first day of May ye seid xvij yerr of yo^r regne at london in
y^e parich of Sent Martyne in y^e Ward of Farindon infra y^e
same Duke of Suff. trayterously adherent to y^e seid Charles
calling hym selfe kyng of Fr'unce then and ther falsly and
t'ytterously counseild coumforted stered and p'uoked ye seid Duke
of Orlyauce to excite and moeve y^e same Charles calling hym
selfe Kyng of Fr'unce yo^r grete enemeye And adu'sarie to make
and Reyse open Werr ayenst you in yo^r seid Realme of Fr'unce
And Duchie of Normandy to Conquer And to opteyn falsly be
force myght and other menes ayenst you your heiriz and suc-
cesso's yo^r seid Realme of Fr'unce and Duche of Normandy
vppon wich Adherence Councell and Counfort of ye seid Duke
of Suff. ye seid Charles calling hym selfe Kyng hath made open
werr a yenst you in your seid Realme of Fr'unce and hath it at-
trochid vnto hym And ye most p'ty of yo^r Duchie of Normandy
And

most victorious noble Prince of blessed memory, the King your father, whom God assoil! taken by him prisoner, to the intent that the said Charles, calling himself King of France, should recover, get, and have by false conquest, and other deceivable means against you, your heirs and successors, your said realm of France, Duchies and Counties by the wile, subtle counsel, might, and aid, of the said Duke of Orleans.

Notwithstanding that by the last will and ordinance of your said father, for divers things moving his great wisdom, contrary thereof was advised and declared, by which counsel and steering only of the said Duke of Suffolk, the said Duke of Orleans was soverd [*suffered*] at his liberty to depart of of this your realm to the parts of France.

Afore which departure the 1st day of May, the said 17th year of your reign (1439) at London, in the parish of St. Martin, in the Ward of Faringdon infra, the same Duke of Suffolk traiterously adherent to the said Charles, calling himself King of France, then and there falsely and traiterously counselled, comforted, steered, and provoked the said Duke of Orleans to excite and move the same Charles, calling himself King of France, your great enemy and adversary, to make and raise open war against you in your said realm of France, and Duchy of Normandy, to conquer and to obtain falsely by force, might, and other means against you, your heirs and successors, your said realm of France, and Duchy of Normandy, upon which adherence, counsel and convort [*q. comfort*] of the said Duke of Suffolk, the said Charles, calling himself King, hath made open war against
you

And takyn p'fony's ye ful nobile lordys and Coragyouse Knytys y^e Erle of ⁴ Schrouesbery and y^e lord ⁵ Faconberge w^t many othir Nobles and people of yo^r trewe leiges to ther likly fynall ondoing your gretest disheritaunce and ou^r grete lamentable losse that euer comē a for this to you or ony of yo^r ful Noble p'genito's or to your trewe subgettes.

It'm wher the feid Duke of Suff. late was on of yo^r Ambassito's w^t othir to youre feid Adu'sarie Charles calling hem self Kyng of Fr'unce he above heis instruccion and power to hym be you cōmittynge p'mised to ⁶ Reyner King of Cesile And Charles ⁷ Daungers heis brothir your grete enemyes y^e deliu'aunce of Maunce And Mayne w^tout y^e assent andvyse or knowyng of other your feid Ambassito's w^t hym thenne accompanyd And theroppon after heis comyng in to this Realme from the same Ambassiate in p'formīg of heis feid p'myse he falsly and t'yterously for grette rewardes and lucre of good to hym yeuen by yo^r enemyes caused the feid Reyner and Charles Daungers to haue deliu'aunce of Maunce and Mayne aforeseid to yo^r ou^r grete disheritaunce and losse irrep'able enforfing and enrychyng of your feid enemyes and grettest mene of the losse of yo^r feid Duche of Normandye and so was y^e feid Duke of Suff. falsly and t'yterously adherent aidant and Confortant to yo^r grete enemyes and adu'saries.

It'm

⁴ John, Lord Talbot, our famous general in the French wars, was created Earl of Shrewsbury in 1442. He was a prisoner in France from 1428 to 1432, and slain at Chastillon in 1453, when above 80 years old.

⁵ William Neville was created Lord Falconberg, in 1429. He commanded the Van at

you in your said realm of France, and it hath attrôched [*attracted*] unto him, and the most part of your Duchy of Normandy, and taken prisoners the full noble Lords and courageous Knights, the Earl of ⁴ Shrewsbury, and the Lord ⁵ Falconberg with many other nobles and people of your true lieges, to their likely final undoing, your greatest disheritance, and our great lamentable loss that ever come afore this to you, or any of your full noble progenitors, or to your true subjects.

Item, where(*as*) the said Duke of Suffolk late was one of your Ambassadors with others to your said adversary Charles, calling himself King of France, he above his instruction and power to him by you committing, promised to ⁶ Reyner, King of Sicily, and Charles ⁷ D'aungers his brother, your great enemies, the deliverance of Maunce and Mayne, without the assent and advice or knowing of others your said Ambassadors with him then accompanied, and thereupon after his coming into this realm from the same Ambassiate, in performing of his said promise, he falsely and traiterously, for great rewards and lucre of good to him given by your enemies, caused the said Reyner and Charles D'aungers to have deliverance of Maunce and Mayne afore said, to your over great disheritance and loss irreparable, enforcing and enriching of your said enemies, and greatest mean of the loss of your said Duchy of Normandy; and so was the said Duke of Suffolk falsely and traiterously adherent, aidant and confortant to your great enemies and adversaries.

at the battle of Towton, in 1461, and was soon after created Earl of Kent, and died in 1463.

⁶ Renatus, Duke of Anjou, &c. Father of the Queen of England, here called King of Sicily or Naples, he died in 1480.

⁷ Charles of Anjou, Duke of Maine, was born in 1414, and died in 1472.

It'm the feid Duke of Suff. being reteyned w^t you in yo^r wages of werr in your feid Realme of Fr'unche and Duchie of Normandye And therby stroftid be you and alle your councellers to knowe y^e p'uite of yo^r Councell ther And y^e p'uaunce of yo^r Armes y^e defence and keping of yo^r townes Fortereffes and places sieges p'veaunce and ordinaunce of Werr in y^e fame p'ties for you to be mad knowyng all . . . p'uite and being adherent to yo^r feid grete enemeye calling hem self kyng of Fr'unce hath eften and many diuers tymes falsly and t'ytterously discouerd and openned to hym and to heis Capytaynes and Conducto^rs of heis Werr your enemies y^e p'uite ordinaunce and p'uision of yo^r feid Councell p'ueaunces of Armes defence keping townnes fortereffes places Syeges and ordinaunce werby yo^r grete adu^r-farie and enemyes haue geton and takyn be y^e menes of this is treason and falshode ful many lordchepes townnes Casteles fortesses and places wⁱⁿ yo^r feid Realme of Fr'unce and Duchie of Normandie and letted yo^r Capitaynes of yo^r Werres to conquer keppe and acheve yo^r rithfull enheritaunce ther.

It' y^e feid Duke of Suff. beyng of yo^r grete p'uey Councell and w^t you best troftid knowyng the secrenesse therof And of this yo^r Realme y^e xvj day of Juyl y^e xxvth yerr of yo^r regne at london in the parich of sent lau'aunce Pulteney in y^e ward of Sandewyke strette and at othir diu's tymes and places falsly and t'ytterously beyng adherent and ardaunt to y^e feid Charles calling hem selfe King of Fr'unce yo^r grete enemyes ye feid xvj day and in y^e parich of Sent laurence aforseid openned declarid and discouered to y^e feid Erle of Danas Bastard of Orlyaunce Bertrand lord p'figin Maist^r Will'm Cofinet yo^r enemyes f'bgettes
Ambaffiato^rs

Item, the said Duke of Suffolk being retained with you in your wages of war, in your said realm of France and Duchy of Normandy, and thereby trusted by you and all your counsellors to know the privy of your counsel there, and the purveyance of your armies, the defence and keeping of your towns, fortresses, and places, sieges, purveyance and ordinance of war in the same parts for you to be made, knowing all in private, and being adherent to your said great enemy, calling himself King of France, hath often and many divers times falsely and traiterously discovered and opened to him, and to his captains, and conductors of his war, your enemies, the privy, ordinance, and provision of your said counsel, purveyances of arms, defence keeping, towns, fortresses, places, sieges, and ordinance, whereby your great adversary and enemies have gotten and taken by the means of this his treason and falsehood full many Lordships, towns, castles, fortresses, and places within your said realm of France, and Duchy of Normandy, and letted your captains of the wars to conquer, keep, and atchieve your rightful inheritance there.

Item, the said Duke of Suffolk being of your great privy Council, and with you best trusted, knowing the secreteness [*secrecy*] thereof, and of this your realm, the 16th day of July, the 25th year of your reign (1447) at London, in the parish of St. Laurence Pulteney, in the ward of Sandwick street, and at other divers times and places falsely and traiterously being adherent and aidant to the said Charles, calling himself king of France, your great enemy, the said 16th day, and in the parish of St. Laurence afore said, opened, declared, and discovered to the said Earl of Danas, Bastard of Orleans, Bertrand, Lord Preffigny,

Ambaffiato's and Councillours to y^e feid Charles calling hem self king of Fr'unce the p'uities of your Councell aswell of this your Realme for y^e comyn wele of y^e fame as for y^e gou'nauns and ordinaunce for y^e conquest conf'uacion Saufgard tucyon of your feid Realme of Fr'unche and Duchie of Normandy at y^t tyme being in your in handys as be the feid Charles calling hem selfe kyng of Fr'unce, And armes goton and takyn out of yo^r handes.

It'm futh y^e mat^r first moeved of y^e conuencyon of trewes and pees by twenne you and your feid grette enemeye Charlys callyng hem selfe Kyng of Fr'unche Wheroppon by grete dib'acyon ye by the Advyse of yo^r Councell haue fend many solempne Ambaffiato's to y^e fame Charles for y^e god of pees to be hadde be twyn you and this yo^r Realme and yo^r f'biettes in yo^r Realme of Fr'unche Duchie of Normandy and othir places vnder yo^r obeyfauns and y^e fame Charles and heis subgettes y^e feid Duke of Suff. being next and gretteft of yo^r Councell havynge knowlach of y^e power and auctorite comytted to alle yo^r Ambaffiato's fend in this be half hath defeyvabely and t'yterously by heis lres and messages discou'ed and opened to yo^r feid grete enemeye Charlys calling hym self Kyng of Fr'unce alle ynstruccions and informacions yeven to yo^r feid Ambaffiato's afore y^e comyng in to Fr'unce werby the effectuale concord and trewes y^t schuld haue folowed of fuche Ambaffiat by twynne both y^e feid Realmes and f'bgettes haue take non effectualle conclusyon but by his fals fraudelent traiterous werkes dedes and deceyvable ymagynacyons yo^r grete enheritaunce feygnyouries lordshippis townes

Master William Cofinet, your enemies, subjects, ambassadors and Counsellors to the said Charles, calling himself King of France, the privities of your council, as well of this your realm for the common weal of the same, as for the governance and ordinance for the conquest, conservation, safeguard, tuition of your said realm of France and Duchy of Normandy, at that time being in your hands, as by the said Charles, calling himself King of France, and armies gotten and taken out of your hands,

Item, sith the matter first moved of the convention of truce and peace between you and your said great enemy Charles, calling himself King of France, whereupon by great deliberation ye by the advice of your council have sent many solemn Ambassates to the same Charles for the good of peace to be had between you and this your realm, and your subjects in your realm of France, Duchy of Normandy, and other places under your obeisance, and the same Charles and his subjects, the said Duke of Suffolk being next and greatest of your Council, having knowledge of the power and authority committed to all your Ambassadors sent in this behalf, hath deceivably and traiterously by his letters and messages discovered and opened to your said great enemy Charles, calling himself King of France, all instructions and informations given to your said Ambassadors afore the coming into France, whereby the effectual concord and truce, that should have followed of such Ambassate between both the said realms and subjects, have taken none effectual conclusion, but by his false, fraudulent, traiterous works, deeds, and deceivable imaginations, your great inheritances, seignories, lord-

Castell fortresses and possessions in yo^r seid Realme of Fr'unche and Duchie of Normandy by cause of heis false messages sendyngs and wrytyngys haue be takyn by rest and getyn fro you be yo^r seid enemyes In proof of y^e wich treson ye seid Duke of Suff. fittyng in yo^r Councell in y^e Stere Chambre in yo^r pales of Westm^r seid and declarid openly be for y^e lordis of yo^r Councell ther being y^e he had his place in y^e Councell hows of y^e French Kyng as he had ther and was ther as wel stostid as he was here and couth remeve from y^e seid French Kyng y^e prevyest man of heis Councell yf he wold.

It whan in this your Roialme ful oftyn tymes p'uicyon hath be mad for diu's Armes to be sent in to your seid Realme of Fr'unche Duches of Normandy And Gyand y^e seid Duke of Suff. by y^e instaunce and meenes mad to hym be yo^r seid enemyes and adu'sareys for grette outeragious yestes and rewardes of them takyn trayterously hath restrayned and vtrly lettyd y^e passage of such Armes in fauo^r and Supporte of yo^r seid enemyes.

It y^e seid Duke of Suff. as yo^r Ambassato's by twene you and Charles callyng hym self Kyng of Fr'unche in fortifyeng of hem and enchrefing of his myght hath not comprised in trewes taken in yo^r p'ty y^e Kyng of ⁸ Arregon yo^r old Allye and frend nother y^e Duke of ⁹ Breten but sufferd and causid y^e seid Duke of Bretayne to be compremysid of y^e p'ty of the seid Charles as his s'bgget frende and allye wherby ye have ben est'unged from

⁸ Alphonso V. King of Aragon, died in 1458, aged 64.

ships, towns, castles, fortresses, and possessions in your said realm of France and Duchy of Normandy, because of his false messages, sendings, and writings, have been taken by rest, and gotten from you by your said enemies.

In proof of the which treason the said Duke of Suffolk, sitting in your council in the Star Chamber in your Palace of Westminster, said and declared openly before the Lords of your council there being, that he had his place in the Council house of the French King as he had there, and was there as well trusted as he was here, and could remove from the said French King the priviest man of his council if he would.

Item, when in this your realm full often times provision hath been made for divers armies to be sent into your said realm of France, Duchies of Normandy and Guyenne, the said Duke of Suffolk, by the instance and means made to him by your said enemies and adversaries for great outrageous gifts and rewards of them taken, traiterously hath restrained and utterly letted the passage of such armies in favour and support of your said enemies.

Item, the said Duke of Suffolk as your Ambassador between you and Charles, calling himself King of France, in fortifying him and encreasing of his might, hath not comprised in truce, taken in your party the King of ⁸ Arragon, your old Ally and friend, neither the Duke of ⁹ Bretayne, but suffered and caused the said Duke of Bretayne to be compremised of the party of the said Charles, as his subject, friend, and ally, whereby ye

⁹ Francis I. Duke of Bretaign, was born in 1414, and died in 1450.

y^e god leffe and assistance of y^e seid King of Arregon and therby
and be othir on trewe and falce coniectours of y^e seid Duke of
Suff. y^e seid Duke of Breteyn is become yo^r enemeye and
io Gyles of Breten his Brothir y^e wiche is and of long tyme
hath ben yo^r trewe and welvyllled man and f'v'nt put in gret
dures of p'con and likely to be potte to y^e Dethe or distroid for
his trewe feith and welle y^t he hath to you.

And of alle tresons and offensys in alle theis seid Arteculyes
specyfied and conteyned we yo^r seid Comens accuse and empeche
y^e seid Will'm de la Pole Duke of Suff. and pray y^t this be
enacte in this yo^r high Courte of p'lement and theroppon to
p'cede in this your high Courte of Parlement as y^e mat^r And
caas aforseid requireth for y^e Surete and welfar of yo^r most
Roiale p'son And savacyon of this your Realme, &c.

The above was written on two
whole Sheets of paper, each

xi ½ by 17.

Paper Mark,

Q? some kind of Flower.
Pl. xxi. No 9.

CCC

have been estranged from the good love and assistance of the said King of Arragon, and thereby and by other untrue and false conjectures of the said Duke of Suffolk, the said Duke of Bre-
tayne is become your enemy, and ¹⁰ Gyles of Bretayne his brother, the which is, and of long time hath been, your true and well willed man and servant, put in great dures of prison, and likely to be put to the death or destroyed for his true faith and weal that he hath to you.

And of all treasons and offences in all these said articles specified and contained, We your said Commons accuse and impeach the said William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and pray that this be enacted in this your High Court of Parliament, and thereupon to proceed in this your High Court of Parliament, as the matter and case aforesaid requireth for the surety and welfare of your most Royal Person, and savation [*salvation*] of this your Realm.

¹⁰ Egidius or Gyles, his brother, was Lord of Chantore: he died in 1450.

L E T-

LETTER XIII.

*To my Sovereyn**John Paston.*

I Recomend me hertily thankyng yow for ye tydings and ye good awysse y^t ze sent me be ye p^rlon of Thorpe latyng zow wittin y^t ye byschope of ye todir syde of ye see sent laate to me a man y^e qwych wuld abydin uppon my leyser for to an had me ouyr wyt hym to ye seyde byschope and so forth to y^e Courte so ye seyde man and I arryn a poynted y^t he schal Comyn ageyn a purpose fro ye byschope to be my gyde ouyr y^e See and so I purpose me fully forthe a noon astir this estryn J mak me euyre day fulli redy as p^ruyli as I can be sekynge zow as I trost on zow and as I am zour trow bede man as labor for me her y^t I mythe haf a wyrte of Passaghe directid un swyche men as zow thyng y^t schyd best yise me my scharghe ye best takynge of schepynge is at yernemuthe er Kyrley or som othir place in Norfo^k syde I schal haf favour he now wyt ther seergours bod a^l my goode spede and all my wel lythe in you heer for ther on I trost fully som Cownsel me to haf a lett^r of exschawngge thow it wer bode of xl s er lees bod I comitte all my best in this matir to zour wysdam

It is very difficult to ascertain the date of this Letter, unless we may suppose it written about 1449, when Walter Lyhart, Bishop of Norwich, was sent Ambassador into Savoy, to induce Felix V. who had been chosen Anti-Pope, to renounce his claim to Nicholas V. for the peace of the Church. This our Bishop accomplished, and it might be at the same time that the Prior of Bromholm wished to go to him when abroad, but on what account does not appear. I give this merely as a conjecture, as I do not find that the priory of Bromholm had any connection with any foreign Bishop.

Robert

L E T T E R XVIII.

To my sovereign John Paston.

I Recommend me heartily, thanking you for the tidings, and the good advice that ye sent me by the parson of Thorpe, letting you weet that the Bishop of the other side of the Sea, sent lately to me a man, the which would abide upon my leisure, for to have had me over with him to the said Bishop, and so forth to the Court; so the said man and I are appointed that he shall come again, on purpose from the Bishop, to be my guide over the sea, and so I purpose me fully forth anon after this Easter; I make me every day full ready as privily as I can, beseeching you, as I trust on you, and as I am your true beadsman as [to] labour for me here that I might have a writ of passage directed unto such men as you think that should best give me my charge.

The best taking of shipping is at Yarmouth or Kyrley, or some other place in Norfolk side. I shall have favour enough with their Seergiours [*Searchers q?*], but all my good speed and all my weal lyeth in you here, for thereon I trust fully.

Some counfel me to have a Letter of Exchange, though it were but of forty Shillings or less, but I commit all my best [*bebest q?*]

Robert was Prior of Bromholm, from about 1435 to about 1460, when he was succeeded by John Titleshale.

This priory became famous for a Holy Cross, made (as it was said) of part of the Cross on which our Saviour was crucified.

The House was dissolved in 1539, and sold by the Crown to Sir Thomas Wodehouse; it was afterwards in the families of Berney and Branthwaite. It then became the Estate of John Norris, Esq. and by him was settled upon the University of Cambridge, as a stipend for a Professor.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 5.

wysdam and qwat at euyr ze pay in this matir I schal truly at
 owr metyng repay ageyn to zow bod for godds love purvey
 for my sped her for ell J lees all my purvyans and ther too J
 schyd jaape y^e byschope man and caus hym to com in to yng-
 land and lees all his labor for goddis loue fend me down this
 wyrte er ell bryng it wyt zow y^t I mythe haf fro zow a lett^r of
 tydings and Comforthe for I had neuyr verray need of zour
 labor til now bod my hert hangithe in gret langor all my brethir
 wenyth y^t I schy^d no forthir goo than to ye byschope and undir
 y^t colour schal I weel go forthe to ye Courte I haf gret stody
 til I haf tydings fro zow Avy^r mor all mythi good haf zow in
 kepyng bodi and soule Writtin in haft y^e Wednesday in y^e
 fyrst week of clen Lenton.

Your Orator,

Robt. P. of B.

I sent zow a lett^r bod I
 hade non answer ageyn.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LET

in this matter to your wisdom, and whatever ye pay in this matter, I shall truly at our meeting repay again to you, but for God's love purvey for my speed here, for else I lose all my purveyance, and thereto I should jape [*deceive*] the Bishop's man, and cause him to come into England and lose all his labour; for God's love fend me down this writ, or else bring it with you, that I might have from you a letter of tidings and comfort, for I had never very need of your labour till now, but my heart hangeth in great languor.

All my brethren weneth that I shall no farther go than to the Bishop, and under that colour shall I well go forth to the Court, I have great study till I have tidings from you.

Evermore Almighty Good [*God*] have you in keeping, body and soul.

Written in haste, the Wednesday in the first week of clean Lent.

Your Orator,

ROBERT, Prior of BROMHOLM.

I sent you a letter, but I had none answer again.

Wednesday,

March ,

About 1449-50. 28 H. VI.

M 2

LET.

L E T T E R X I I I.

*To my right wurchepfull
howfbond John Paston.*

RIGHT wurchepfull howfbond I recomand me to yow
p'ying yow to wete that the p'son of Oxened told me that
Wymdh'm told hym that Sweynnysthorp is hold of the kyng
be the thred p't or the fourt p't of a knyht fye and ho so eu' had
the man' of Sweynsthorp he shuld fynde an armyd man in
tyme of Werre in the Castell of Norwhic xl days to his owyn
Cost and that ye shuld pay xxx' to the kyng yerly owth of the
seyd man' and it is fond also that yo' fad' shuld a died seysyd
and that y^e shuld a entyryd ther in as heyr aft' yo' fad' dysseys
and that y^e shuld be now up on the age of xxx wynt'.

The Trinite have yow in hys kep'yg, wreten at Norwhic the
friday next a fore seynt George.

Yowrs,

John Paston.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

I have given this Letter as mentioning a tenure by Petit Sergeanty; these tenures
were abolished by a statute in the reign of Charles II. but the honorary services by
Grand Sergeanty are still continued.

L E T

L E T T E R XIX.

To my right worshipful husband, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that the parson of Oxnead told me that Wyndham told him that Swainsthorp is held of the King by the third part or the fourth part of a Knight's fee, and whosoever had the manor of Swainsthorp he should find an armed man, in time of war in the Castle of Norwich, forty days to his own cost, and that ye should pay 30s. to the King yearly out of the said manor, and it is found also that your father should have died seised, and that ye should have entered therein as heir after your father's decease, and that ye should be now upon the age of 30 winters.

The Trinity have you in his keeping; written at Norwich, the Friday next afore Saint George.

Yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Friday, April

About 1450. 28 H. VI.

Seal,

A Fleur de Lys.

Pl. xxiii. N^o 7.

This Letter must have been written about 1450, as John Paston was born about 1420. Swainsthorpe is in the County of Norfolk.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 20.

L E T T

L E T T E R XX.

*To my Right especiall
Maistr John Paston in hast.*

RYGH T worthy worshipfull Sr and myn especiall maistr I recomaund me to yow And p'y yow wete yat I was yesterdaye atte my lord Chauncellers hous and y'e I spake w^t White And he tolde me yat he hadde the lett^r yat ye sewed for from directed to the lord Moleyns of yat substance yat ye hadde sued to hym for an especiall ² affi'e and an ³ oier and det^rminer and yat he shuld comaunde his men beyng at Gr to dep^rte yens and yat ye p^rfitez y'of shuld be receyved by an endifferent p^rson fausly to be kepte til y^e right were det^rmyned be twen yow and my lord M. &c. whiche lett^r White sent forthe by a man of my lord Chaunceller to y^e lord Moleyns And he sent his answer in writyng of yis Substance yat it shuld not like my lord Chaunceller to g[']unte Affi'e &c. for als moche as ye lord M. hadde fore be laboured in his cuntre to peas and stille ye ⁴ poeple there to

After J. Paston had received this Letter, it seems as if he had sent it to my Lord Oxford, for on the back of it, in J. Paston's hand-writing, is the following direction.

"To the rith worspfull and my rith speciall Lord my Lord of Oxenford."

The Estates in dispute between J. Paston and my Lord Molyns, were at Gresham, in Norfolk, where Sir William Paston the Judge, had purchased the moiety of a Manor, &c. of Thomas Chaucer, Esq. The other moiety now in dispute, had been in the possession of the ancestors of Ellenor (now the wife of Robert Hungerford, Lord Molyns,) who was the daughter and heir of Sir William Molyns, Lord Molyns, who was killed at the siege of Orleans, in 1428, and had likewise come into Sir William's possession. The disputes were carried on for several years, and how at last finally settled I know not.

restreyngne

L E T T E R XX.

To my right especial Master, John Paston, in haste.

RIGHT worthy worshipful Sir, and mine especial master, I recommend me to you, and pray you weet that I was yesterday at my ¹ Lord Chancellor's house, and there I spake with White, and he told me that he had the letter that ye sued for from ² directed to the Lord Molyns of that substance that ye had sued to him for an especial ² Affise and an ³ oyer and determiner, and that he should command his men being at Gresham to depart thence, and that the profits thereof should be received by an indifferent person safely to be kept till the right were determined between you and my Lord Molyns, &c. which letter White sent forth by a man of my Lord Chancellor to the Lord Molyns. And he sent his answer in writing of this substance, that it should not like my Lord Chancellor to grant affise, &c. for as much as the Lord Molyns had fore belaboured in his country to pease [*appease*] and still the ⁴ people there to

¹ William de Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester, he was soon after succeeded by John Kemp, Archbishop of York.

² A Writ directed to the Sheriff, for recovery of possession of things immoveable, whereof yourself or ancestors have been disseised.

³ Is a Commission especially granted to certain persons for the hearing and determining of causes, and was formerly only in use upon some sudden outrage or insurrection in any place.

⁴ These disturbances amongst the people were the remains of Cade's rebellion, which had been lately suppressed.

restreyngne them from ryfynge and so he was dayly laboured y'e abowt in ye kynggs f'uyce and yat considered he trustid u'yly yat y'e shuld non affi'e be gr'unted to yo' entent And he seid forther in his answer if he myght attende to be in Norff and leve the necessary f'uyce yat he dede to ye kyng now in Wyltshire he wolde be but weel pleased yat ye hadde yo' assise for he knewe his title and his euydence so good for his part yat he durst weel putte it in my lord Chaunceller and in what iuge he wolde calle to hym. And wher my lord Chaunceller desired hym to avoyde his men from Gr' he trustid that my lord wolde not desire that by cause he hadde his possession and yat it was his wyffs ryght and so hym thought it a geynst reason yat he shuld a voide utterly his possession. yis same moneday goth my lord Chaunceller and my lord of ⁵ Buk into Kent to fyte up on an ⁶ oier and det'myner at Rorchestre And Whyte tolde me yat y'e is wretyn an gen'all oier and det'myner to be in Norff And what therfore and for ye lord Moleyns wrytyng hym semyth it is not to yo'. avayll to sewe for an especiall affi'e ne for an oier and det'myner. Whan I Come hiddirward I mette w' my lord of Norff. betwen Berkewey and Baburgh'm homward And whethir he shall Come agayn hiddir or noght I wot not but J trowe rather yes yanne nay. For it is seid that alle ye lords be sent for to be here on Moneday or tuisday next Comyng for a counseyll the ⁷ chief justice is not here ne noon oy' iustice ex-

⁵ Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, fell in the battle of Northampton, in July 1460.

⁶ These Commissions of Oyer and Determiner were to try those who had been concerned in the late Rebellion under Cade.

restrain them from rising, and so he was daily laboured there about in the King's service, and that considered, he trusted verily that there should none assise be granted to your intent; and he said further in his answer, if he might attend to be in Norfolk, and leave the necessary service that he did to the King now in Wiltshire, he would be but well pleased that you had your assise, for he knew his title and his evidence so good for his part, that he durst well put it in my Lord Chancellor, and in what Judge he would call to him; and where(*as*) my Lord Chancellor desired him to avoid his men from Gresham, he trusted that my Lord would not desire that, because he had his possession, and that it was his wife's right, and so him thought it against reason that he should avoid utterly his possession.

This same Monday goeth my Lord Chancellor and my Lord of ⁵ Buckingham into Kent, to set upon an ⁶oyer and determiner at Rochester, and White told me that there is written a general oyer and determiner to be in Norfolk; and what therefore, and for the Lord Molyns writing, him seemeth it is not to your avail to sue for an especial assise nor for an oyer and determiner.

When I came hitherward I met with my Lord of Norfolk, between Barkway and Baberham homeward, and whether he shall come again hither or not I wot not, but I trow rather yes than nay, for it is said that all the Lords be sent for to be here on Monday or Tuesday next coming for a council.

The ⁷ Chief Justice is not here, nor none other Justice, ex-

⁷ John Hody was at this time Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

cept ⁸ Danvers is now made iuge of ye Co'e place and is forth into Kent w^t ye lords, &c. Al yis tofore was wretyn on ye Moneday next aft^r our lady day. And yis fame Wednesfeday was it told that ⁹ Shirburgh is goon and we have not now a foote of londe in Normandie and men arn ferd yat ¹⁰ Calese wole be befeged hastily, &c. Pynchamour shall telle yow by mowche more yanne I have leyser to write now to yow. I wrot to myn ¹¹ Em' yat y'e were ix or x m^l men up in Wiltshire and J hadde it of ye report of Whittocks mede but I trowe it is not so for here is now littel speche y'of ner the lesse if I here more I shall send yow worde her after by sum loders yat Come to seynt Bertilmews fayre Wretyn in hast at london ye Wednesfeday next aft^r our lady day, &c.

Yo^r own symple S^vut,

¹² James Cr.

¹² by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁸ Robert Danvers became a Judge of the Common Pleas 14th of August, 1450.

⁹ Cherburg is a port-town in France, in the province of Normandy, and situated on a bay in the English Channel, opposite to Hampshire. The French are at this very time (1788) erecting considerable works, and forming an extensive harbour at this place.

CCC

cept ⁸ Danvers, (*who*) is now made Judge of the Common Pleas, and is forth into Kent with the Lords, &c.

All this tofore was written on the Monday next after our Lady-day (*17th of August*), and this same Wednesday was it told that ⁹ Cherburg is gone, and we have not now a foot of land in Normandy, and men are afraid that ¹⁰ Calais will be besieged hastily, &c. Pynchamore shall tell you by mouth more than I have leifure to write now to you. I wrote to mine ¹¹ Em. that there were nine or ten thousand men up in Wiltshire, and I had it of the report of Whittock's mede, [*q? maid*] but I trow it is not so, for here is now little speech thereof, nevertheless if I hear more I shall send you word hereafter by some Loaders [*Carriers*] that come to Saint Bartholomew's fair.

Written in haste at London, the Wednesday next after our Lady-day, &c. (*the Assumption, 15th August*).

Your own simple Servant,

¹² JAMES GRESHAM.

London,

Wednesday

19th of August, 1450.

28 H. VI.

¹⁰ Calais, the capital of the re-conquered Country in the province of Picardy, in France, was taken by the English in 1347, during the reign of Edward III. and lost by them in the reign of Q. Mary, in 1557.

¹¹ Quere this abbreviated word.

¹² Autograph. Pl. III. N^o 28.

L E T T E R ¶¶¶.

*To my Ryght trusty**Freende Sr Thomas**Howys prson of Castellco'be**beyng at Castr and Williā**Barker in haste at Castr**yn by Jermuth.*

RYGH T trusty and welbelovyd freende I grete you well, and as for Hygh'm place to be sold as ye avysen me to bye it at the some of C Mark or wythynne And ref've yn the said paym't myne oune dewtee and pay the remenant in wolle to the said Hygh'm credytes as yo'r lre makyth mencon. I hafe undrestand that Williā Jenney shall be her thys wek And I shall veele hym how neere it may be sold, for yff the wydow wolle fylle it aft' xiiij yeer or xv yeere that it may be leten, sendyth me utterly word for I wolle not melle of it ellys thus avysed And sende ye me word how mech more yn value yn a stoon shall I fyle my wolle And how anothyr chapman wole gefe me for the place when I hafe bought it but aft' xiiij yeer I wold by the place.

Wretyn at London the xv day of October A° xxix R. R. H. VI.

3 by 12.

Paper Mark,

A Pair of Sheers.

Pl. xxi. N° 5.

J. Pastolf.

I have given this Letter, as it informs us of the price and value of land at this period. Fourteen years purchase seems high, since it does not appear that Sir John bought it for its convenience, as he mentions selling it again. By calling it "Heigham's Place" I suppose there was a house as well as land.

L E T

L E T T E R XXI.

To my right trusty Friend Sir Thomas Howys, parson of Castlecombe, being at Caister, and William Barker in haste, at Caister Inn, by Yarmouth.

RIGHT trusty and wellbeloved friend I greet you well, and as for Heigham's place to be sold, as ye advise me to buy it at the sum of an hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) or within, and reserve in the said payment mine own duty, and pay the remanent in wool to the said Heigham's creditors as your letter maketh mention; I have understood that William Jenney shall be here this week, and I shall veele [*feel*] him how near it may be sold; for if the widow will sell it after fourteen year or fifteen year, that it may be lett, send me utterly word, for I will not melle [*meddle*] of it else thus advised; and send ye me word how much more in value in a stone shall I sell my wool, and how another chapman will give me for the place, when I have bought it; but after fourteen year I will buy the place.

Written at London, the 15th day of October, in the 29th year of King Henry VI.

JOHN FASTOLF.

London,

Thursday 15th of October,

1450. 29 H. VI.

In 1470, twenty years after this time, the Reward offered for apprehending the Duke of Clarence was 100*l.* in money, or 100*l.* a year in land. This seems to fix land at that period at only ten years purchase; perhaps the preceding civil wars had caused this abatement in its value.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 15.

L E T-

LETTER XXII.

*To my worshipfull maist^r
 Paston at Norwich in haste
 be yis delyuered.*

PLEASE it yow to wete yat I come to london y^e Wed-
 nesseday at evyn late next aft^r my dep^tying from yow and
 it was tolde me yat my maist^r Calthorp hadde writyng fro my
 lord of York to awayte on hym at his comyng in to Norff^r to
 be oon of his men And yat no gentelman of Norff^r had writyng
 to awayte on hym but he And sum folke wene y^t it is to yen-
 tent yat he shuld be outhir Shiref or knyght of ye Shire to ye
 fortheryng of othir folks &c. the Kyng is remeid from Westm^r
 summe men sey to ¹ Fysshwick and sume sey to Bristowe And
 it is seid yat he hath do wretyn to alle his men yat be in ye
² chekroll to awayte on hym atte p^rlem^t in yeir best Aray. Why
 no man can telle ³ Heydon was w^t my maist^r Yelverton and
 desired

Though there is not even the month in which this Letter was written, I should have had very little hesitation as to fixing the date of it to the year 1450, did not our Historians tell us that the Duke of York was in that year in Ireland, from whence he did not return till 1451.

The following Letter however still fixes me to the date of 1450, as "dies Mercurij in festo Sancti Martini," must be Wednesday 11th of November, 1450, in which year the Parliament met on the 6th of November, and I can find no other Parliament assembled in November, till 1459, when it met at Coventry.

If we suppose the Feast of St. Martin to be that of Martin the Confessor and Pope, on the 10th of November, the day will then do for Wednesday the 10th of that Month, in 1451, but then there was no Parliament summoned at that time of the year.

This Letter seems written previously to that which I have placed next it, and I believe it was written about the month of October.

We are plainly informed of the unsettled state of the Government at the time this Letter

L E T T E R XXII.

*To my worshipful Master Paston, at Norwich, in haste be
this delivered.*

PLEASE it you to weet, that I came to London the Wednesday at even late, next after my departing from you, and it was told me that my Master Calthorpe had writing from my Lord of York to await on him at his coming into Norfolk to be one of his men, and that no Gentleman of Norfolk had writing to await on him but he, and some folk ween that it is to the intent that he should be either Sheriff or Knight of the Shire, to the furthering of other folks, &c.

The King is removed from Westminster, some men say to ¹ Fishwick, and some say to Bristol, and it is said that he hath do [*caused to be*] written to all his men that be in the ² Checkroll to await on him at Parliament in their best array; why, no man can tell. ³ Heydon was with my Master Yelverton, and desired

Letter was written, which exactly corresponds with the discontent which prevailed amongst the people in general after Cade's Rebellion, and in the latter part of the year 1450. The Duke of York's Plans too appear to be coming forward; and the hopes which Heydon had of the World's becoming better to his intents than it then was, hints to his interest in the appointment of a Sheriff.

¹ Fishwick is in Lancashire, and Bristol in Somersetshire, these place were therefore very far distant from each other.

² The Check-Roll is a Roll or Book, containing the names of such persons as are attendants, and in pay to the King, or other great men, as their household Servants, &c.

³ John Heydon, of Baconsthorpe, Esq. was a Lawyer, and in 1431 Recorder of Norwich, but being displaced in 1433, was succeeded by William Yelverton; he married Ellenor, Daughter of Edmund Winter, of Town Barningham, Esq. whom he appears to have treated very unkindly. He died in 1480.

He appears to have been a very litigious man, and probably had made some forceable entry and illegal distress on Plumsted's goods, &c. for which he was indicted.

desired hym to see ye recordes of his endytementz and axed of hym if he were indited of felonye and my maist^r Yelv^rton told hym it was and y^to H. seide Sr ye wole recorde y^t I was nev^r thef and he seid he trowed right weel that he cowde telle why he took Plumpsted's goods and othir words whiche were long to write And my maist^r Y. seid to hym he cowde not knowe ye laborer of yendytement and H. seid ageyn he knewe weel ye laborer y^tof And my maist^r Y. conceyte is H. ment yow. Wherfor he Aduyseth yow yat in onywyse ye make Plumpsted to take Apell accordyng for if he so do yanne is H. barred of his conspirace and also of his damages though yat he be nonn^rsewed y^tin or though it be aft^rward discontinued &c. And ellis Ar ye in ioparde of A Conspirace for H. hopeth to haue ye World bett^r to his entent yanne it is nowe for it is told me yat rather yanne he shuld fayle of A Shiref yis yeer comyng for his entent he wole spend m^l li. yis co^ricacon be twene yem was on Moneday last passed And on tewisday last passed H. mette w^t maist^r * Markh^m and he tolde H. his part how that he levid ungoodly in puttyng away of his wyff and kept An oy^r &c. and y^twith he tⁿed pale colo^r and seid he lyved not but As god was pleased w^t ne dede no wrong to no p^rson and y^tupon Maist^r M. reherced how he demened hym A geynst men of Court and named yow and Genneye and H. seid As touchyng ye peple yat rifled yow and ye doyng y^tof he was not p^rvy y^to for he was yat tyme here at london And as touchyng ye Lord Moleyns

* John Markham was appointed King's Serjeant, in 1444, and in 1462 became Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

him to see the Records of his indictments; and asked of him if he were indicted of felony; and my Master Yelverton told him it was; and thereto Heydon said, "Sir, ye will record that I was never (*a*) thief;" and he said, he trowed [*trusted*] right well that he could tell why he took Plumsted's Goods, and other words which were long to write. And my Master Yelverton said to him, he could not know the labourer of the indictment, and Heydon said again, he knew well the labourer thereof; and my Master Yelverton's conceit is, Heydon meant you; wherefore he adviſeth you, that in any wiſe ye make Plumsted to take appeal accordingly, for if he ſo do, then is Heydon barred of his conspiracy, and alſo of his damages, though that he be nonſuited therein, and though it be afterwards diſcontinued, &c. and elſe are ye in jeopardy of a conspiracy, for Heydon hopeth to have the world better to his intent than it is now; for it is told me, that rather than he ſhould fail of a Sheriff this year coming, for his intent, he will ſpend a thouſand pounds; this communication between them was on Monday laſt paſſed, and on Tuesday laſt paſſed, Heydon met with Maſter⁴ Markham, and he told Heydon his part, how that he lived ungoodly in putting away of his wife, and kept another, &c. and therewith he turned pale colour, and ſaid he lived not but as God was pleaſed with, nor did no wrong to no perſon; and thereupon Maſter Markham rehearsed [*rehearsed*] how he demeaned him againſt men of Court, and named you and Jenney; and Heydon ſaid, as touching the people that riſſed you, and the doing thereof, he was not privy thereto, for he was (*at*) that time here at London; and as touching the Lord Molyns's title,

title H. enforced gretly and seid his title was bett^r yanne yo^rs
 Yisterday was my maist^r Yelverton at Dyn^rer w^t my maist^r Fastolf
 and y^e Among oy^r thei were Auyfed that my maist^r F. shall
 write to my lord of Norff^r yat he certifie ye kyng and his
 counseill how ye Cuntre of N. & S. stonde right Wildely w^towt
 A mene may be that justice be hadde Whiche wole not be but
 if A man of gret byrthe and lyflod there be Shiref yes yer
 comyng to lede ye peple in most peas and y^to thei named Maist^r
⁵ Stapilton if it wole happe &c. Also yat my lord Norff^r shall
 certifie the Kyng and his Counseill yat but if ye day of ye Oyer
 and t^myn^rer stonde it wole be full harde by cause ye peple is so
 Wylde Also yat alle Knyghtes and Escuyers of ye same cuntre
 shuld certifie ye same For sumē of H. part haue boosted yat
 all at Norwich shuld not be worth An ⁶ haughe Jō &c.
 It^m prentise is now in ye mydle Jnne and Dynne
 Almyghty God have yow in his kepyng Wretyn the Thursday
 next aft^r my dep^tying

Yo^r⁷ J. Gretham.

12 by 10 1/2.

Paper Mark,

Cap, and Fleur de Lys.

Pl. viii. N^o 4.

⁵ The Stapyltons were an ancient and knightly family, of large possessions, residing at Ingham, in Norfolk; a co-heiress of this family married Sir William Calthorpe, by whom the Ingham Estate came to him.

⁶ Haw, is the berry of the white thorn, and the Saxon word for it is Hagan, from this it was probably called Haugh John, a fruit of no value.

J.C.C.

Heydon enforced greatly, and said his title was better than yours.

Yesterday was my Master Yelverton at dinner with my Master Fastolf, and there among other they were advised, that my Master Fastolf shall write to my Lord of Norfolk, that he certify the King and his Council how the Country of Norfolk and Suffolk stand right wildly, without a mean may be that justice be had, which will not be, but if [*unless*] a man of great birth and livelihood there be Sheriff this year coming, to lead the people in most peace, and thereto they named Master^s Stapilton, if it will hap, &c. Also that my Lord (*of*) Norfolk shall certify the King and his council that, but if the day of the oyer and terminer stand, it will be full hard, because the people is so wild.

Also that all Knights and Esquires of the same country should certify the same, for some of Heydon's part have boasted that all those that were at Norwich should not be worth an⁶ haugh John, &c.

Item, Prentice is now in the Middle Inn, and Dynne
 Almighty God have you in his keeping.

Written the Thursday next, after my departing.

Yours,

⁷ JAMES GRESHAM.

London,

Thursday,

About October 1450. 29 H. VI.

⁷ Autograph. Pl. III. N^o 28.

L E T T E R ¶¶¶¶.

*To my Worshipfull and good
m^r John Paston Escuyer.*

PLEASE it yow to wete yat Sr. W. Oldhall is chosyn speker of ye p^rlement and ¹ admytted by the kyng &c. It'm ye day of oier and t^rmyn^r shall holde at Norwich on Moneday next comyng and by yat cause my lord of ² Oxenford shall be disported of his comyng to ye p^rlement for to attende to ye fessions of oier &c. It'm ye lord ³ Moleyns hadde langage of yow in ye kynggs p^rsence as my maist^r ⁴ Yelv^rton can telle yow by mouthe. yo^r p^rsence shuld have do meche ease here in yo^r own matiers and oy^r as yo^r weel willers thynkyn and yo^r absence do non ease here netheles my maist^r Yelv^rton shall telle you all, &c. It is seid here yat ye duke of ⁵ York and ye Duke of ⁶ Norff^r shulln not come here yis vii nyght. It'm it is supposed yat An oier and det^rmyn^r shall come hastily into Norwich. William Dynne Abydeth yerfore. As touchyng Shirefs y'arn.

This Letter is subscribed J. D. and Gr which I believe are the signature of John Damme and James Gresham.

The former was Recorder of the City of Norwich, and at this Parliament their Representative; the latter was an eminent Lawyer, and great grandfather to that public spirited citizen Sir Thomas Gresham, knight.

¹ We here find that at this time the Member who was elected Speaker of the House of Commons, was presented to the King for his approbation.

This is a curious historical Anecdote. Sir William Oldhall was a Gentleman of considerable property, in the County of Norfolk.—He was supposed to have been somewhat concerned in Cade's Rebellion. He was Member for Herefordshire.

none

LETTER XXIII.

To my worshipful and good Master, John Paston, Esquire.

PLEASE it you to weet that Sir William Oldhall is chosen Speaker of the Parliament, and ¹ admitted by the King, &c.

Item, the day of oyer and terminer shall (*be*) holden at Norwich, on Monday next coming, and by that cause my Lord of ² Oxford shall be disported [*diverted*] of his coming to the Parliament for to attend to the Sessions of oyer and terminer.

Item, the Lord ³ Moleyns had language of you in the King's presence as my Master ⁴ Yelverton can tell you by mouth. Your presence should have done much ease here in your own matters and others, as your well willers think, and your absence do none ease here; nevertheless my Master Yelverton shall tell you all, &c.

Item, it is said here that the Duke of ⁵ York, and the Duke of ⁶ Norfolk shall not come here this fev'night.

Item, it is supposed that an oyer and determiner shall come hastily into Norwich: William Dynne abideth therefore.

As touching Sheriffs there are none chosen or named, and

² John Vere, Earl of Oxford, was beheaded in 1461.

³ Robert Hungerford, Lord Moleyns, was a steady Lancastrian, and beheaded early in the reign of Edward IV.

⁴ Sir William Yelverton, of Rougham, in Norfolk, was called to the degree of a Serjeant in 1440, became a Judge of the King's Bench in 1444, was created a Knight of the Bath in 1460, and was alive in 1471.

⁵ Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, seems at this time to have been in favour, and to have had some management in public affairs.

⁶ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, died in 1461.

none chosyn ne named And as men suppose non shall be chosyn
til my lord of Yorks comyng, &c. Wretyn in hast at Westm^r
m^rcur in festo s^ci Martini.

Your,

⁷ J. D. & ⁸ Et.

It is apoynted yat who shall sue any bille in ye p^lement yei
must be put into ye co'e hous by for seint Edmunds day atte
fertheft, &c.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Autographs. ⁷ Pl. xvii. N^o 6.

⁸ Pl. III. N^o 28.

LETTER XXIII.

*To my Ryght trusty
frende and s^runt Sr Thom's
p^rson of Castellcombe and
John Bokkyng at Prynce
Jnne yn Norwych or at
Beklys.*

RYGH^T trusty and welbelevyd S^runt I grete you well And
forasmoch as I undrestand that on monday next the oyer
and t^rminer shall be holden at Beklys and ye avysen to sende
yow a Certificat for cause of the forged quyt^unce by S^r John
Sypton whych wrytyng I scende you by the berer here of p^yng
you

as men suppose, none shall be chosen till my Lord of York's coming, &c. Written in haste at Westminster (*die*) Mercurij in festo Sancti Martini.

Yours,

7 JOHN DAMME, and 8 GRESHAM.

It is appointed that who(*ever*) shall sue any bill in the parliament they must be put into the Commons house before Saint Edmund's day (*20th of November*) at farthest, &c.

Westminster.

Wednesday, 11th of November, 1450. 29 H. VI.

The Sessions of Oyer and Terminer here mentioned were to try those who had been concerned in Cade's Rebellion.

L E T T E R XXIV.

To my right trusty Friend and Servant, Sir Thomas (Howys) parson of Castlecombe, and John Bocking, at Prince's Inn, in Norwich, or at Beccles.

RIGHT trusty and well beloved servant, I greet you well, and forasmuch as I understand that on Monday next the oyer and terminer shall be holden at Beccles, and ye advise to send you a certificate for cause of the forged quittance by Sir John Sypton, which writing I send you by the bearer hereof,

6.

praying

you that ye solicit to my Councell that the said S^r John Sypton be endited thereuppon. and that ye foryete not Ulueston Andreus and the othys that forged a fals office to cast my maner of Bradwell yn to the Kyngs hand.

It' I sende you a cop' of Sibieton ple and quyt'unce forged to grounde your bille by it. No more for haste but god kepe you Wryt at london iij day of December A^o xxix^o R R H vj.

It'm S^r John Bukk p'son of Stratford phyfshed my stankys at Dedh'm and holp brake my damme destroyed my new mille and was ayenst me allwey at Dedh'm to the damage of 20/. which may be endyted allso. It'm he and John Cole hath by force this yeer and othyr yeers take out off my waters at Dedh'm to the nōbre of xxiiij Swannys and Signetts and I pray you thys be not foryeted.

J. Fastolf.

3 by 12.

Paper Mark,
A Pairs of Sheers.
Pl. xxi. N^o 5.

I have presented this Letter to the Reader, to shew him that the forging of Deeds, Grants, &c. was a common offence many centuries ago; here it mentions an acquittance as being forged, and likewise an office forgery, which would affect Sir John's maner of Bradwell.

RIGHT truly and well beloved servant I greet you well, and forasmuch as I understand that on Monday next the great and renowned shall be holden at Beccles, and ye advise to send you a certificate for cause of the forged quittance by Sir John Sypton, which writing I send you by the bearer herof praying

praying you that ye solicit to my counsel that the said Sir John Sypton be endicted thereupon, and that ye forget not Ulveston, Andrews, and the others that forged a false office to cast my manor of Bradwell into the King's hand.

Item, I send you a Copy of Sypton's plea and quittance forged to ground your bill by it.

No more for haste, but God keep you, written at London, the 4th day of December, in the 29th year of King Henry VI.

Item, Sir John Buck, parson of Stratford, fished my stanks at Dedham, and helped to break my dam, destroyed my new mill, and was against me always at Dedham, to the damage of 20*l.* which may be endicted also.

Item, he and John Cole hath by force this year, and other years taken out of my waters at Dedham, to the number of 24 swans and cygnets. I pray you this be not forgotten.

JOHN FASTOLF.

London,

Friday, 4th of December,

1450. 29 H. VI.

At the time here mentioned, forgery was an offence at common law only, and the punishment was usually fine and imprisonment; it is now an offence by divers statutes, and the Person committing it is guilty of felony, without benefit of Clergy.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 15.

LETTER XXII.

*To my Ryght trusty and
intierly welbeloved John
Jermyn Shirreve of Norff.*

RIGHT trusty and intierly welbeloved I grete yow wele and where late by the Kyng's Comaundment in the tyme of his p'lement holden now last at Westm^r. I was in p'sone at Norwich holdyng Sessions of oir det'myner w^t Yelverton on of the kyngs juges by greet space and greet attendaunce which for to a do w^t fuych diligence in the p'lement tyme I wold a be right lothe but for the puppyk wele of all the Shire it is also not oute of yo^r. remembraunce what indisposioun the Com'ons of bothe Countes in the ende of Somer last passed wer of And how the kyng by the hole advyse of all the greet counsell of England to sese their Rumor. send hider his said comission and how I have do my part therynne I reporte me to all the World I here a gruggyng nev'thelesse that trow favor in yo^r. office to the pople that hath compleyned by many and grete horrible billes agayn certeyn p'sones shuld not be shewid at this next Sessions at

Lenn

This Letter was written by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, to the High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, in consequence of his having been informed that he intended to quash certain bills against particular persons, and not suffer them to appear at the next Sessions, &c. This sentence in the Original Letter is ambiguous from an omission of a word or two, but I think the above is the true meaning of it.

These Commissions were sent out in November 1450, soon after the suppression of Cade's Rebellion, to try those who were imprisoned in different parts of the Kingdom for the part they had then taken.

The

L E T T E R XXV.

*To my right trusty and entirely well beloved John Jermyn,
Sheriff of Norfolk.*

RIGHT trusty and entirely well beloved, I greet you well, and where(*as*) late by the King's commandment in the time of his parliament holden now last at Westminster, I was in person at Norwich, holding Sessions of Oyer (*and*) Determiner with Yelverton, one of the King's Judges, by great space and great attendance, which for to have done with such diligence in the parliament time, I would have been right loath, but for the public weal of all the shire.

It is not also out of your remembrance what indisposition the Commons of both Counties in the end of Summer last passed were of, and how the King, by the whole advice of all the great Council of England to cease their rumour, sent hither his said Commission, and how I have done my part therein, I report me to all the world; I hear a grudging nevertheless that through favour in your office to the people that hath complained by many and great horrible bills against certain persons, should not be

The Earl seems to express himself as friendly to the People, and wishes to be a mean of redressing their grievances.

He married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, Knight, by which marriage he became possessed of the manor of East Winch, in the County of Norfolk. He was beheaded when about 55 years of age, in 1461.

Autograph. Pl. I. N^o 8.

Cade's Rebellion happened in June and July, 1450. 28 H. VI.

John Jermyn, the High Sheriff, was ancestor to Sir Thomas Jermyn, of Rushbrooke, in Suffolk, who was created a Peer by Charles I. in 1643; but this family became extinct in 1708.

Lenn ne ferth'r in the said Comission which if it so were as god defend myght cause a latt' erro' wurs than the first I p'y yow therfore that ye wole write to me yo' disposic'on how ye purpose to be demened and how j shal take yow for th' execuc'on of the kyngs Comission and the pupplik wele of all the shire and astir that that ye write to me so wole I take yow latyng yow wete that I were lothe to labo'. ferther but if I wist that the Comons shuld be easid as godds law wold And if ony erro'. grow the defaute shal not be founde in me I p'y yow more ov'. to gif credence to the berer her of And the trinite kepe yow Wretyn at Wynch the second day of January.

The Erle of Orenford.

11. $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
A Crofs and Mound.
Pl. xxi. No. 8.

N U M B E R X X I J.

*The Speech of John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk
against Edmund Beaufort Duke of Somerset in the House of Lords.*

MY lordes ye know well ynough the grete peynes labours and diligences that before thys tyme y have doon to thentent that the ove' greete dishonneurs and losses that ben come to thys full noble Royaume of England by the fals
menes

shewed at this next Sessions at Lynn, nor farther in the said Commission, which if it so were as God defend [*forbid*], might cause a latter error worse than the first.

I pray you therefore that ye would write to me your disposition how ye purpose to be demeaned, and how I shall take you for the execution of the King's Commission, and the public weal of all the shire; and after that that ye write to me, so will I take you, letting you weet that I were loath to labour farther but if [*unless*] I wist that the Commons should be eased, as God's Law would, and if any errors grow, the default shall not be found in me.

I pray you moreover to give credence to the bearer hereof, and the Trinity keep you. Written at Winch, the 2d day of January.

The EARL of OXFORD.

Winch,

Saturday, 2d January, 1450. 29 H. VI.

N U M B E R XXVI.

The Speech of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, against Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, in the House of Lords.

MY Lords, ye know well enough the great pains, labours, and diligences, that before this time I have done, to the intent that the over great dishonours and losses that be come to this full noble Realm of England, by the false means of some persons

menes of som persones that have take on theym over grete autoritee in thys Royaume shulde be knowen. And that the persones lyvyng that have doon theym shulde be corrected after the merites of her desertes And to that entent y have denounced and delyv'd to you in wrytyng certeyn articles ayenst the Duc of Som'set whych ys one of theym that ys gylty thereof whertoo the Duc of Som'set hath aunfuerd And to that that he hath aunfuerd y have replied yn such wyse that y trowe to be sure ynough that there shall no vayllable thyng be seyde to the contrarie of my seyde replicacon And asmoche as he woold sey shall be but falsnesse and lesyngs as be the probacons that shall be made thereuppon shall mow appiere how be it that to alle people of gode entendement knowyng how Justice owyth to be ministred. it ys full apparunt that the denunciacion ayenst hym made ben sufficiently preved by the dedes that have folowed thereof Whereuppon y have requyred to have ouerture of justice by yow whych ye have not yhyt doon to me Whereoff y am so
 hevy

That the Reader may the better understand the matters here referred to, it will be necessary just to mention the leading transactions which occasioned this accusation.

The Parliament met at Westminster in the latter end of the year 1450, when the Duke of Somerset returning from France, was so publicly censured for the loss of Normandy, that the Commons petitioned the King to send him to the Tower; it might be therefore at this time that the Duke of Norfolk made this Speech in the House of Lords; the Duke of Somerset however was released as soon as the Parliament broke up. But as Guienne (which stands as part of the charge against him here) was not completely lost before the year 1453, when this Duke was again committed to the Tower, and an accusation brought against him by the Commons before the Lords, it is, I think, most probable that it was then that the Duke of Norfolk stepped forwards as his accuser.

The exact time however is immaterial, as the force and energy of the Speech remain the same whenever it was spoken, and that it was spoken is evident, from that sentence in which he says, "Wherfor for to abbrege my langage, &c." Though concise, it is
 nervous,

persons that have taken on them over great authority in this Realm, should be known. And that the Persons living that have done them should be corrected after the merits of their deserts. And to that intent I have denounced, and delivered to you in writing, certain Articles against the Duke of Somerset, which is one of them that is guilty thereof; whereto the Duke of Somerset hath answered; and to that that he hath answered, I have replied in such wise that I trow to be sure enough that there shall be no vailable thing be said to the contrary of my said replication; and as much as he would say shall be but falseness and leasings, as by the probations that shall be made thereupon shall now (*moreover, or soon, q?*) appear; howbeit that to all people of good intendment, knowing how Justice ought to be ministered, it is full apparent that the denunciations against him made be sufficiently proved by deeds that have followed thereof; whereupon I have required to have overture of Justice by you, which ye have not yet done to me, whereof I am so heavy,

nervous, full to the purpose, and artfully addressed to the passions both of the noble Lords and the people in general, and in form and method would not disgrace a modern Orator.

Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, after the death of the Duke of Suffolk, became the Queen's favourite, and prime minister, and was both a valiant Soldier and an able Statesman; he fell in the first battle of St. Alban's, where he commanded the royal army, in May 1455.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, succeeded his father in 1435, and died in 1461. These Dukes were both of them great-grandsons to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. The first by his father, the second by his mother.

For his curious Autograph, see Pl. I. N^o 3.

On the top of the paper on which this Speech is written, is the word *cōp*, meaning "Copy", which shews that this was copied from the original paper for the Duke's own use, as the paper and hand writing are both of the time of Henry VI.

And at the bottom is written "Einsi signe M. Norff."

hevy that y may no leng^r beere it specialle feth the mater by
me purfued ys fo worshipfull for all the Roy^{me}. and for you and
fo greable to god and to alle the subgettys of thys Roy^{me} that
it may be no gretter And it ys fuch that for anye favo^r of
lignage ne for anye othyr cause there shulde be no diffimulacon
for doubt lest that othyr yn tyme comyng take example thereof
And lest that the full noble vertue of Justice that of god ys so
greetly recōmaunded be extinct or quenched by the fals oppini-
ons of som that for the grete bribes that the seyd Duc of Som^rset
hath p^rmysed and yoven theym have turned theyr hertys from
the wey of trouth and of justice som seyeng that the cases by
hym cōmitted ben but cases of trespasse And othyr takyng a
colour to make an univ^rsell peas. Whereoff ev^y man that ys
trewe to the seyd coroune avyth grately to m^rveylle that anye
man wold sey that the losse of ij so noble Duchees as Normandie
and Guyen that ben well worth a greete Roy^{me}. comyng by
successions of fadres and modres to the seyd coroune ys but
t^rspasse Where as it hath be seen in manye Royaumes, and lord-
shyps, that for the losse of tounes or Castells wythoute Sege the
Cap^{nes} that hav lost theym han be deede and beheded and her
godes lost as in Fr^unce one that lost Chyrborough And also a
knyght that fledd for dred of bataille shulde be byheded soo that
alle these thyngs may be founden in the lawes wryten. And
also yn the boke cleped l'arbre de bataille Wherfor, for to
abbregge my langage y Requyre you that forasmech as the
more partie of the dedes cōmitted by the seyd Duc of Som^rset
ben cōmitted yn the Roy^{me} of Fr^unce, that by the lawes of
Fr^unce

that I may no longer bear it, specially since the matter by me pursued is so worshipful for all the realm, and for you, and so agreeable to God, and to all the Subjects of this realm, that it may be no greater ; and it is such that for any favour of lineage, nor for any other cause there should be no dissimulation, for doubt lest that other in time coming take example thereof ; and lest that the full noble virtue of Justice, that of God is so greatly recommended, be extinct or quenched by the false opinions of some, that for the great bribes, that the said Duke of Somerset hath promised and given them, have turned their hearts from the way of truth and of justice ; some, saying that the cases by him committed be but cases of trespasss, and others, taking a colour to make an universal peace, whereof every man that is true to the said Crown, ought greatly to marvel, that any man would say that the loss of two so noble Duchies as Normandy and Guyenne, that be well worth a great realm, coming by successions of fathers and mothers to the said Crown, is but trespasss ; whereas it hath been seen in many Realms and Lordships, that, for the loss of towns or castles without siege, the Captains that have lost them have been dead and beheaded, and their Goods lost ; as in France one that lost Cherburgh ; and also a Knight that fled for dread of battle should be beheaded ; so that all these things may be found in the laws written, and also in the book cleped [*called*] "*L'arbre de Bataile* ;" wherefore for to abridge my language, I require you that for as much as the more part of the deeds committed by the said Duke of Somerset (*have*) been committed in the realm of France, that,

Er'unce proceffe be made thereuppon And that all thyng that
 y have delyv'ed and shall delyv'e be seen and understand by
 people havynge knoulige theroff And that the dedes comitted
 by hym in thys Roy^{me} bee yn lyke wyse seen and understand by
 people lerned yn the lawes of thys land And for preffe thereof
 to gr'unt comissions to inquire thereof as by reason and of
 custom it owyth to be doon calling god and you all my lordes
 to wytnesse of the devoirs by me doon in thys seyde mat'e. And
 requyeyng you that thys my bille and alle othyr my devoirs
 may be enacted before you. And that y may have it exempli-
 fied undre the kyngs grete feele for my discharge and acquytalle
 of my trouth makynge protestac'on that in case that ye make not
 to me ouerture of justice upon the seyde caas. y shall for my
 discharge do my peyn that my seyde devoirs and the seyde lak of
 justice shall be knowne through all the Roy^{me}.

Einsi signe.

J. M. Porff.

12 by 8.4.

LEC

Vol. III.

by the Laws of France, process be made thereupon; and that all things that I have delivered and shall deliver, be seen and understood by people having knowledge thereof, and that the deeds committed by him in this realm be in like wise seen and understood by people learned in the Laws of this Land; and for proof thereof to grant Commissions to enquire thereof, as by reason and of custom it ought to be done, calling God and you all my Lords to witness of the devoirs by me done in this said matter; and requiring you that this my bill, and all other my devoirs may be enacted before you, and that I may have it exemplified under the King's great Seal for my discharge and acquittal of my truth, making protestation that in case that ye make not to me overture of Justice upon the said case, I shall for my discharge do my pain, that my said devoirs and the said lack of Justice shall be known through all this realm.

Ainsi Signe,

JOHN }
MOWBRAY, } NORFOLK.

1450, or 1453.

29 or 32 H. VI.

Q 2

LET.

LETTER XXIII.

To my rev^{erent} and worchepfull

Maystr. Sr John Fastolf knyght

be this lre deliv^{er}ed.

RIGHT reu^{erent} and w^{orshipfull} Maist^r I recomaunde me
loully un to yow please you to wete the Sondag next aft^r
the fest of the ¹ Jnuencon of the cros the ix day of May at
Castre J receyued a lre from you by yo^r Clerk W. Barker
the Tenure wherof I shall do spede in all hast goodly But for
the more sp^{ial} cause of my wrytyng at this tyme is to gef you
relacon of the un true demenyng of this oure det^rmyn^r by the
parcialte of the Iugez of it For whan the Counsell of the Cite
of Norwich of the toun of Swafh^m youres my Maist^r Inglose
Pastons and many other playntyfs had put in and declared bothe
by wrytyng and by woord by fore the Jugez the lawfull excep-
cons in many wise. the Iuges by ther wilfulnesse myght nat
fynde in ther hert to gef not als moche as a bek ner a twynclyng
of ther Eye toward but toke it to deriscon god reforme such
p^{cialte}.

This very curious Letter gives us a true picture of the proceedings in our Courts of justice at this time. We find those in the highest departments of the law openly partial; and that the Suitors in the Court came attended by large parties of Friends in military array, to drive away their opponents; from this the wisdom of our present regulation is apparent, when all Soldiers are ordered to quit the town in which Assizes are holden, during the time of their continuance, lest it should be supposed they might befriend one, and intimidate the other party in any legal process; this proceeding is now always enforced, unless when any daring offender against the laws is to be tried, and there are any apprehensions of an intended rescue.

And

L E T T E R XXVII.

*To my reverend and worshipful Master Sir John Fastolf, Knight,
be this Letter delivered.*

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Master, I recommend me lowly unto you, please you to weete the Sunday, next after the feast of the ¹ Invention of the Crofs, the 9th day of May, at Caister, I received a letter from you by your clerk, W. Barker, the tenour whereof I shall do speed in all haste goodly; but for the more special cause of my writing at this time is to give you relation of the untrue demeaning this Oyer (and) Determiner, by the partiality of the Judges of it, for when the Counsel of the city of Norwich, of the town of Swaffham, yours, my master Inglos, Pastons, and many others Plaintiffs, had put in and declared both by writing and by word before the Judges the lawful exceptions in many wise, the Judges by their wilfulness might not find in their heart to give not as much as a beck nor a twinkling of their eye toward, but took it to derision, God reform.

To the honour of our Country it may be truly said, that our Judges for ages past have been, not only thought, but always found superior to either bribery, corruption, or partiality; and to the immortal honour of our present Sovereign King George III. it ought to be ever remembered, that he in the beginning of his reign appointed his Judges for life, who, before, held their high office only during the royal pleasure.

It does not appear what the business was which caused these complaints against the proceedings.

^a The third of May.

fuch

And by cause ² P'sot thought that yf the Sessions of the Oyer det'myner had be holden at Norwich as they bygonne he supposed it shuld nat so fast passe to th'entent of Tudenh'm and Heydon and ther felawes as it shuld do ell in other place but enj'oned to Walsyngh'm wher they haue grettist rule ther to be holden on Tuesday iiij^{te} day of May This knowyng my Maist^r. Yelv^rton Denney and other myght weel conceyue how the gou'naunce of the oyer det'myner shuld p'cede for it was the most p'cial place of alle the Shire and thedre wer cleped alle the frendez knyghteys and Esquiers and other gentilmen that wolde in nowise do other wise than they wolde and the seid Tudenh'm Heydon and other opp'fours of ther set Come down theder as I understand w^t iiij^c hors and more and Consideryng how ther wellwillers wer ther assembled at ther Instaunce it had be right Jowp'to' and ferefull for any of the pleyntyfs to haue be p'sent for ther was nat one of the pleyntyfs ner Compley'u'ntez ther but your right feithfull and trusty weel willer John Paston. And my Maist^r ³ Yelu^rton seid full discretly and countrolled the seid p'sot when he seid sitting in the Guyhalle of Norwich these wordys to the Meyre and the Co'alte A S^r Meyre and yo^r brethern as to the p'cesse of yo'e Compleynte we wole put them in Contynuaunce but in all other we wole p'cede which wordys Yelu^rton thought right parciall And by fide this the seid P'sot wolde

² In 1443 John Privot was made a Serjeant at Law, and in 1449 was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, which post he held till 1462, when he was succeeded by Robert Danby.

³ Sir William Yelverton, of Rougham, in Norfolk, became a Serjeant at Law in 1440.
was

such partiality; and because ² Prifot thought that if the Sessions of the Oyer and Determiner had been holden at Norwich as they begun, he supposed it should not so fast pass to the intent of Todenham, and Heydon, and their Fellows, as it should do else in other place, but enjoined [*adjourned*] to Walsingham, where they have greatest rule, there to be holden on Tuesday 4th day of May.

This knowing, my Master Yelverton³, Jenney, and others might well conceive for the governance of the Oyer and Determiner should proceed, for it was the most partial place of all the shire, and thither were cleped [*called*] all the friends, knights, and esquires, and other Gentlemen that would in no wise do otherwise than they would, and the said Todenham, Heydon, and other oppressors of their set, came down thither, as I understand, with 400 horse and more, and considering how their well willers were there assembled at their instance, it had been right jeopardous and fearful for any of the Plaintiffs to have been present, for there was not one of the Plaintiffs nor Complainants there, but your right faithful and trusty well willer John Paston. And my master ³ Yelverton said full discreetly, and controulled the said Prifot when he said, sitting in the Guildhall of Norwich, these words to the Mayor and the Commonalty.

“A Sir Mayor and your Brethren, as to the process of your complaints we will put them in continuance, but in all other we will proceed,” which words Yelverton thought right partial;

was made a Judge of the King's Bench in 1444, created a Knight of the Bath in 1460, and was alive in 1467. He married first Jane, daughter of Oliver le Gros, Esq. of Sloley, in Norfolk; secondly, Ela, daughter of Sir Robert Brewse, of Wetingham, in Suffolk, by each of whom he left issue; and by the last was ancestor to the present Earl of Sussex.

wolde suffre no man that was lerned to speke for the pleyntyfs but took it as a venom and took them by the nose at eu^{ry} thred woord whiche myght weel by knowe for open p'cialte And as for the lord ⁴Scalys ye knowe well what he is toward you and namely for hikelyng mat^r Also to knowe som of your feynt frendes at the tyme that my lord Norff. sat at Norwich up on the oyer det^rmyn^r Sr John Hevyng^h'm myht nat fynde it in his hert to go iiij furlong from his duellyng place to the Shireho' but now he coud ryde from Norwich to Walsyng^h'm to fyt as one of the Co'myssioners as to the rule of other that ye wolde haue supposed your wellewillers how they haue byhavyd them at Walsyng^h'm I shall fende yow woord in all hast Whan Bernay Come hom to Castr for he is nat yet Come from Walsyng^h'm but this I knowe well that they founde none obstacle ner impedymment in ther Consciens in all your mat^r but how they haue do with Norwich Swaf^h'm and Paston J am nat yet clerly informed I suppose they arn put in respite I here sey Heydon feweth for an ende to be had w^t the Cite of Norwich and as to the namys of them that passed on ther acquitaile ayenst yow Broyn Can weell informe yow I und^rstand that Sr Rob^t Conyers ⁵Calthorp ⁶Mundford wer Capteyns and maister R^c Doget also It'm as for the ij venir^r'fac' ye sent to be retⁿed for yo^r man^z of Bradwell and Beyton I haue do them to be retⁿed

⁴ Thomas, Lord Scales, was a Knight of the Garter, he left an only daughter and heir married to Sir Anthony Widville, who in her right was summoned to parliament as Baron Scales, in 1461.

⁵ He was of a very ancient and flourishing family at this time, in the county of Norfolk,

and beside this the said Privot would suffer no man that was learned to speak for the Plaintiffs, but took it as a venom, and took them by the nose at every third word, which might well be known for open partiality.

And as for the Lord ⁴ Scales ye know well what he is towards you, and namely for Hickling matter. Also to know some of your feint friends, at the time that my Lord of Norfolk sat at Norwich upon the Oyer and Determiner, Sir John Hevingham might not find it in his heart to go four furlongs from his dwelling place to the shire house, but now he could ride from Norwich to Walsingham to sit as one of the Commissioners; as to the rule of others, that ye would have supposed your well willers, how they have behaved at Walsingham I shall send you word in all haste when Berney come home to Caister, for he is not yet come from Walsingham, but this I know well, that they found none obstacle nor impediment in their conscience in all your matter, but how they have done with Norwich, Swaffham, and Paston, I am not yet clearly informed, I suppose they are put in respite; I hear say Heydon sueth for an end to be had with the City of Norwich; and as to the names of them that passed on their acquital against you, Broyn can well inform you, I understand that Sir Robert Conyers, ⁵ Calthorp, (and) ⁶ Mundford were Captains, and Master Richard Doget also.

Item, as for the two "Venire Facias," ye sent to be returned for your Manors of Bradwell and Beyton, I have done them

folk, but which is now extinct in the male line, by the death of Sir Henry Calthorpe, Knight of the Bath, who died in his seventy-second year, senior Knight Companion of that most honourable Order in 1788.

⁶ This was an ancient Family, formerly situated at Feltwell, in Norfolk.

torned of fuche namys as I haue sent Woord byfore Sauyng
 fume be take and except out Moreou' as for the mat^r of S^r John
 Sibton Geney and Raulyns gef ful Counsell that it shuld abyde
 tyl the mat^r of Bradwell myght p^rcede so that bothe maters
 myght take up on a day for they sey it wold drawe xx m^rc to
 labo^r the Jur' to london and yet it wer hard to bryng about And
 they gef yow Counsell in all wise that ye labo^r to haue Yelu^rton
 Iuge at that tyme And in all wise bothe in that mat^rz and in all
 other that ye be war that P^rot haue not to haue do in any wise
 for than all wole be nought Of alle other mat^rz I shall fend you
 woord in all hast goodly for at thys tyme I had no leyser by
 cause of the hasty Comyng up of Hug Fen whom I besече
 yow to fele of the demenyng of the oyer det^rmyn^r for he Can
 telle yow moche and he wole whether he wole or nay I can nat
 sey For I know wele he was at Walsyngh'm And I besече all
 myghty Jhu haue yow in his m^rcyfull gou^rn'nce Wret' at Castre
 the Sonday ix day of May A^o xxix^o R. H. vj^{ti}.

11. 1/2 by 16 1/2.

Paper Mark,
 Bull's Head and Star.
 Pl. xxii. N^o 15.

On the back of the Letter is written,

I prey yow be nowth displefed thow I have nowt subscribed
 my name winne forth for it is of neclygens quoth ⁷ Howys
 parson of Castlecomb.

⁷ Autograph. Pl. xix. N^o 16.

U E T

to be returned of such names as I have sent word before, saving some be taken and excepted out. Moreover, as for the matter of Sir John Sybton; Geney and Rawlins give full counsel that it should abide till the matter of Bradwell might proceed, so that both matters might take upon a day, for they say it will draw 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) to labour the Jury to London, and yet it were hard to bring about; and they give you counsel in all wise, that ye labour to have Yelverton Judge at that time, and in all wise, both in that matter and in all others, that ye be ware that Prifot have not to have do in any wise, for then all will be nought. Of all other matters I shall send you word in all haste goodly, for at this time I had no leisure because of the hasty coming up of Hugh Fenn, whom I beseech you to feel of the demeaning of the Oyer and Determiner, for he can tell you much and [*if*] he will, whether he will or nay, I cannot say; for I know well he was at Walsingham. And I beseech Almighty Jesu have you in his merciful governance.

Written at Caister the Sunday 9th day of May, in the 29th year of King Henry VI.

Caister, Sunday 9 May,
1451. 29 H. VI.

On the back of the Letter is written,

I pray you be not displeased though I have not subscribed my name within forth, for it is of negligence saith ⁷ Howys, Parson of Castlecomb.

LETTER XXIII.

*To my Ryght Worshypfull
hosbond jon Paston be this
delyverd in hast.*

RYGTWORTH worchypfull hosbond I recōmawnd me to yow desyryng hertly to her of yowr wellfar Preying yow to wete that I have spoke w^t my lady Felbrygg of that ye bad me speke to her of And she seyde pleyntly to me that she wold not ne never was avysyd ney^r to lete y^e lord Moleyns ne non oy^r to have ther intents as for y^e Mat^r whyll y^e she levyth And she was rygth evyll payd w^t Sawtr that he shuld reporte as itt was told yow yat he shuld have reportyd And she made rygth moche of yow and seyde y^e she wold nowgth y^e no f^rvau^te of herys shuld reporte no thyng y^e shuld be ayens yow oy^r wyfe yan she wold y^e yo^r f^rvawnts shud do or feyn ayens her And if oy^r yo^r f^rvawnts dede ayens her or any of her ayens yow she wold y^e itt shuld be reformyd be twyx yow and her And y^e ye mygth ben all on For she seyde in good feyth she desyryth yo^r frendshyp And as for y^e report of Sawtr she seyde she supposyd y^e he wold nowgth reporte so And if she mygth know y^e he dede she wold blame hym y^efor. I told her y^e itt was told me fyth y^e ye reden and y^e itt grevyd me mor y^e y^e seyde Sawtr shuld r^eporte as he dede yan itt

The former part of this Letter is of little consequence; we learn from it indeed that misrepresentations subversive of good neighbourhood proceeded then as now from servants and others.

In the latter part we find Treacle spoken of as a medicine of great efficacy and consequence.

had

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To my right worshipful husband, John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet that I have spoken with my Lady Felbrigg of that ye bade me speak to her of, and she said plainly to me, that she would not, nor never was advised, neither to let the Lord Molyns nor none other to have their intents as for that matter, while that she liveth; and she was right evil paid with Sauter that he should report as it was told you that he should have reported; and she made right much of you, and said, that she would nought that no servant of hers should report nothing that should be against you, otherwise than she would that your servants should do or say against her; and if either your servants did against her, or any of hers against you, she would that it should be reformed betwixt you and her, and that ye might be all one; for she said in good faith she desired your friendship; and as for the report of Sauter, she said, she supposed that he would nought report so, and if she might know that he did, she would blame him therefore; I told her that it was told me since that ye rode, and that it grieved me more that the said Sauter should

Sir Henry Inglos's Will was proved on the 4th of July, 1451, by which he desired to be buried in the Presbytery of the Priory of St. Faith, at Horsham St. Faith's, in Norfolk, a Priory founded by Robert de Caen, in 1105, in memory of a miraculous delivery from imprisonment by his prayers to God and St. Faith, the Virgin. The removal of his body so immediately after his death seems extraordinary.

report

had be reportyd of anoy^r in als moche as I had awgth hym good-
 wyll befor And she p^yid me y^t I shud not beleve seche reports
 tyll I knew the trowth I was att Toppys at dyner on seynt Pety's
 day ther my lady Felbrygg and oy^r Jantyll Women desyryd to
 have hadde yow ther they feyd they shuld all abe y^e meryer If
 ye hadde ben ther my Cofyn Toppys hath moche Car tyll she
 her goode tydyngs of her broy^r's mat^r sche told me y^t y^r shuld
 kepte a day on Monday next komyng be twyx her broy^r and Ser
 Andrew Hugard and Wyndh'm I p^y yow send me word how
 they spede and how ye spede in yowr owyn mat^r'ys also Also I
 p^y yow hertyly that ye woll send me a potte w^t t^acle in hast
 For I have ben rygth evyll att ese and yo^r dowghter boy^e fyth
 y^t ye yeden hens and on of y^e tallest yoⁿge men of y^e parysch
 lyth syke and hath a gr^te ' myrr' how he shall do god knowyth
 I have sent myn Unkyll Berney the potte w^t t^acle y^t ye dede bey
 for hym myn Awnte r^comawnd^t her to yow and p^yith yow to
 do for her as the byll mak^t mencon of that I send you w^t this
 lett^r and as ye thenk best for to do yⁱinne Ser Henry Inglose is
 passyd to God this nygth hoys sowle god asoy^{ll} and was caryid
 fory^e this day at ix of y^e klok to Seynt Feyy^{is} and ther shall be
 beryid If ye desyer to bey any of hys stuff I p^y y^u send me word
 y^rof in hast and I shall speke to Rob^t Inglose and to Wychyngh'm
 y^r of I suppose yei ben executors The blyssyd tⁿyte have y^u in
 his kep^yg Wretyn at Norwyche in hast on the Thursday next
 aft^r Seynt Pet^r.

* If myrr' here signifies murrain, it must mean a Consumption.

I p^y

report as he did, than it had been reported of another, inasmuch as I had ought him good will before; and she prayed me that I should not believe such reports till I know the truth.

I was at Topps's at dinner on saint Peter's day, there my Lady Felbrigg and other Gentlewomen desired to have had you there; they said, they should all have been the merrier if ye had been there. My Cousin Topps hath much care till she hears good tidings of her brother's matter, she told me that they should keep a day on Monday next coming betwixt her brother and Sir Andrew Hugard [*Ogard*] and Wyndham; I pray you send me word how they speed, and how ye speed in your own matters also.

Also, I pray you heartily that ye will send me a pot with Treacle in haste, for I have been right evil at ease, and your Daughter both, since that ye yeden [*went*] hence, and one of the tallest young men of this parish lyeth sick, and hath a great Myrr [*murrain* *q?*] how he shall do God knoweth.

I have sent my Uncle Berney the pot with treacle that ye did buy for him, mine aunt recommendeth her to you, and prayeth you to do for her as the bill maketh mention of, that I send you with this letter, and as ye think best for to do therein. Sir Harry Inglos is passed to God this night, whose soul God affoil; and was carried forth this day at nine of the clock to Saint Faith's, and there shall be buried.

If ye desire to buy any of his stuff, I pray you send me word thereof in haste, and I shall speak to Robert Inglos, and to Wichingham thereof; I suppose they be Executors. The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich in haste on the Thursday next after Saint Peter.

I p'y yow trost nott to y^e ² Sheryve for no fayr langage.

³ Yours,

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

M. P.

² John Clopton was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk this year.

L E T T E R XXX.

To my maistr Paston.

PLEASE your gode maistrship to wete that as yerstenday came l'res from london that the p'son most nedys up to london to safe the next Am'ciem't. And so ys forth to appiere yff he nedys most xv Jōhis as ye shall see by Barker's l're and shall be to morn' at london and w^t goddes gr'ce he shall be releved by the meene of the parlem't by fonday yee shall hafe weetyng as for my maistr he departyth not to london tille the next weke aft' thys and he ryde As for tydyngs be none couthe but Ponyngs ys qwyte and delyv'ed of all tr'fons and S^r W^m Oldhale ys p'cess yn the kyngs bynche Rev'sed and the p'ft that acoused lordz ¹ Cromewell ² Grey and my ³ maistr wolfe Confesse who caused hym to do it so that he may have hys lyve &c.

This Letter relates to what passed at Blackheath when the Commons of Kent assembled there under Jack Cade, in 1450, when Robert Poynings was his Sword-bearer and carver, who afterwards married Elizabeth, the sister of John Paston.

It could not be written before 1451, as it gives an account of Poynings' Pardon, and of the Priest's confession who had accused the Lords Cromwell, and Grey, and Sir John Fastolf, of treason.

Affone

I pray you trust not to the ² Sheriff for no fair language.

Yours,

³ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Thursday, 1st of July

1451. 29 H. VI.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

L E T T E R XXIX.

To my Master Paston.

PLEASE your good mastership to weet, that as yesterday came letters from London that the Parson must needs up to London to save the next amerciament; And so (*be*) is forth to appear, if he needs must, xv Johannis (*Quinzieme Jobannis*, 8 July) as ye shall see by Barker's letter, and shall be to morn [*tomorrow*] at London, and with God's grace he shall be relieved by the mean of the Parliament; by Sunday ye shall have weeting.

As for my Master (*Sir J. Fastolf*) he departeth not to London till the next week after this, and he ride.

As for tidings be none truth, but Ponyngs is quit and delivered of all treasons; and Sir William Oldhall's process in the King's Bench (*is*) reversed; and the Priest that accused Lords ¹ Cromwell, ² Grey, and my ³ Master will confess who caused him to do it, so that he may have his life, &c.

¹ Henry Lord Cromwell.

² There were several Lords Grey at this time, which of them is the Person here mentioned cannot now be ascertained.

³ By J. Payn's Letter (See vol. I. Letter XIII. p. 54.) it appears that he was urged to have accused his Master Sir J. Fastolf of Treason.

Affone as ye goodly may to see my maist^r it shall be to hym a
sing'ler pleas' S^r a baylly of my maist^r ys yn drayton John
Eimond brought a l're to yow and he sent me wetyng he was
shent uppon som mater as he supposyth conteyned yn the l're y
pr'y you yn ryght be hys gode maist^r and that y may wete the
cause for y doubt he shall and most obbey yff he hath offended
at Castr the ⁴ noneday vij day Juliet.

Yo^r

⁵ W. Worcestre.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

On the top of this Letter in a different hand is written.

⁶ P've ontrouthe in the undir sherif or that he dede othir
wise thaune yo'r counsell avysid hym And Paston shall demene
hym acordyng.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁴ The day of the Nones.

⁵ Autograph. See the letter part of the Signature Pl. II. N^o 24. and Pl. xx. N^o 31.

Paper Mark,

A Ring.

Pl. xxi. N^o 4.

LET

As soon as ye goodly may to see my master, it shall be to him a singular pleasure. Sir, a Bailiff of my Master's is in Drayton. John Edmond brought a letter to you, and he sent me weeting he was shent [*blamed*] upon some matter, as he supposeth, contained in the letter. I pray you in right be his good master, and that I may weet the cause, for I doubt he shall and must obey, if he hath offended.

At Caister the ⁴ noneday, 7 day (*of*) July.

Your

⁵ WILLIAM WORCESTER.

Caister,

Noneday, 7 July,

about 1451. 29 H. VI.

On the top of this Letter, in a different hand, is written.

⁶ Prove untruth in the Undersheriff, or that he did otherwise than your Counsel advised him, and Paston shall demean him accordingly.

⁶ This appears to have been written by some one whose advice had been asked in some Law Proceedings.

L E T T E R ¶¶¶.

*To my trusty Frendys
 Sr Thomas Howys p^rson of
 Castellcombe beyng at
 Castre.*

RYGH^t trusty frendys I grete you well It' where as the Byfshop of ¹ Norwych makyth but delayes in my resonable desyre for an eende to be had in the xxv marc of ² Hykelyng y am uppon a Appoyntem't and throw wyth the heyr of Clyfford that he shall entree in the hole maner that ys chargeable wyth my xxv m^rc Rent which the Pryour and Convent have forfeted the seid hole manor to the heyers undre her Convent feele of Record because of myne nonne paym't of xxv m^rc and so then the Pryor shall lese for ever iiij^{xx} m^rc of Rent And that wythout onye concience for they have be fals both to the Clyffordys and to me thys vij yeere day and y trust to god to correct hem so by spirituell law and temp^rell law that all othyr Relygyoux shall take an example to breke the Coven't or wille of anye benefacto^r that avu'cyth hem wyth londs Rents or gode and my confessours have exorted me gretely ther too.

And

This Letter affords a curious instance of Sir John Fastolf's resolution in determining to attack a religious society in the Courts of law, and that he should do so by the advice of his Confessors appears very extraordinary, but I suppose they were Seculars, and they had always a dislike to the Regular Clergy.

¹ Walter Lyhart, or Hart, became Bishop of Norwich in 1446, and died in 1472.

² The estate out of which this Rent-Charge of xxv marks had been reserved was settled on

L E T T E R XXX.

*To my trusty Friend, Sir Thomas Howes, Parson of Castlecomb,
being at Caister.*

RIGHT trusty friend I greet you well, and whereas the Bishop of ¹Norwich maketh but delays in my reasonable desire for an end to be had in the xxv marks (16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) of Hickling, I am upon an appointment and through with the heir of Clifford, that he shall enter in the whole manor that is chargeable with my xxv marks rent, which the Prior and Convent have forfeited the said whole manor to the heirs under their Convent Seal of Record, because of mine non-payment of xxv marks, and so then the Prior shall lose for ever fourscore marks (53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) of rent, and that without any conscience, for they have been false both to the Cliffords and to me this seven year day; and I trust to God to correct them so by Spiritual Law and Temporal Law, that all other Religious shall take an example to break the Covenant or will of any Benefactor that advanceth them with lands, rents, or goods; and my Confessors have exhorted me greatly thereto. And Almighty God keep you.

on the Priory of Hickling by some of the family of Clifford. William Clifford, in 1419, assigned this rent-charge to Henry Barton; who, in 1428, assigned it to Sir John Fastolf, who was now going to convey it to a Clifford again. This Priory was first founded in 1185, 31 H. II. and Roger Oakham was at this time Prior, a most turbulent man, of whom Sir John Fastolf, in another letter to Sir Thomas Howes, dated 28th of June, 1451, 29 Hen. VI. says (speaking of giving money to religious houses), "The untrouthe of the Priour of Hykelyng draweth away my devotion in such causes."

And Almyghty god kepe you Wryt at london the xxiiij
day of Septēber A° xxx° R. H. vj.

³John Pastolf Wt.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

There is one Walsam wold desyre acquitunce of pardon for
the wydow of Hygh'm, I have no cause for hyr husband left
hyr whereoff to pay hyr debts suffisunt and for me he ferre
the bett^r.

The wydow noysyth you Sr Thomas that ye sold a wey salt but
for xx^s that she might have had xl^s for evy wey I p^ry you aun-
swer that for yo^r acquytaille.

Itm, sende me the value of Cooke ys ⁺ tenem't in Drayton
wyth xx acres lond y^to what it was worth yeerly when it
stode hoole for Sellyng seith it was worth but j noble by yeer.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

⁴ Sir John seems to think that Selling had undervalued the tenement and 20 acres of
land, he set it only at 4d. an acre yearly rent.

L E T T E R ¶¶¶¶.

To Wiliam Wayte.

RITH feithful and welbelouyd Broyr Wiliam Wayte I co-
maunde me to yow as y^e lord may to his ten'nt praying
you effectually to recomaunde me to my sing'ler gode mayst^r,
and yours excusyng me y^t I write not to hym for I dar not en-
volde me in the same And as for tydyngs her I certifye you y^t
all

Written at London the 23d day of September in the 30th year
of King Henry VI.

³ JOHN FASTOLF, KNIGHT.

London
Thursday 23 Sept.
1451. 30 H. VI.

There is one Walsham would desire acquittance of pardon for the widow of Heigham, I have no cause, for her husband left her whereof to pay her debts sufficient, and for me he fares the better; the widow noiseth you, Sir Thomas, that ye sold a wey (*of*) salt but for 20s. that she might have had 40s. for every wey, I pray you answer that for your acquittal.

Item, send me the value of Cooke's ⁴ tenement in Drayton with twenty acres (*of*) land thereto, what it was worth yearly, when it stood whole, for Selling, saith it was worth but one noble (6s. 8d.) by the year.

L E T T E R XXXI.

To William Wayte.

RIGHT faithful and wellbeloved brother William Wayte, I
commend me to you, as the Lord may to his tenant,
praying you effectually to recommend me to my singular good
master and yours, excusing me that I write not to him, for I
dare not envolde [*involve*] me in the same; And as for tidings
here,

all is no^t or will be no^t the kyng borweth hes exp^{ns} for Cristemesse the ¹kyng of Aragon y^e Duc of Myleyn y^e Duc of Ostrich y^e Duc of Burgoyne wolde ben assistent to us to make a conquest and noying is aunswered ner agreed in maner faue abydyng the grete delib^acon y^t aty^e last zall spill all to goder &c the ²chief Yistice hath waited to ben assauted all this feuenyght myghtly in hes hous but noying Come as yett ye more pite &c. On ³Oyr & detⁿimer goth in to Kent & Comission's my lord y^e Duc of York Bouchier my Mayst^r y^t will not Come y^e de p^dic^oibz &c. but kent praeth hem to hang no men when yei Com'e other tydyngs as yett can I non tell you faue Ulueston is Styward of y^e mydill Jnne And Jley of the Jnner Jnne be cause thei wold have officz for excuse for dwellyng this tyme from her wyves &c. Sr T. T. lost hes p^rmer at the tour hill and sent his man to seche it & a good felaw wyshed hit in Norff. so he wold fetch hit y^e &c. ⁴ Men ween y^t Norff. men wer hardier yanne yei be god graunte and at the rev^ence of god help too y^t an outas and clamo^r be made upon the lord scalez preying ym forwell of the Cuntre neyther susteyn ner help hym ner Heydon in no wyse And y^t ye crye upon my mayst^r and yours y^t he obeye not the Sy^corar as yett as ye may se be hes lre from my mayst^r rudely

The whole of this familiar letter wherein the writer mixes politics and pleasantry is not entirely explicable; nor can the date be exactly ascertained; I have ventured to date it between 1450 and 1454.

¹ The assistance offered by the Princes here named related to our wars in France.

² John Hody was Chief Justice of the King's Bench, but I do not understand what is here related.

and

here, I certify you that all is nought, or will be nought; the King borweth [*borroweth*] his expences for Christmas; the ¹King of Arragon, the Duke of Milan, the Duke of Ostrich, the Duke of Burgoyne [*Burgundy*] would have been assistant to us to make a conquest, and nothing is answered nor agreed in manner, save abiding the great deliberation that at the last shall spill all together, &c.

² The Chief Justice hath waited [*expected*] to have been assaulted all this seven night nightly in his house, but nothing come as yet, the more pity, &c. An ³ Oyer and Determiner goeth into Kent, and Commissioners my Lord the Duke of York, Bouchier, my master, that will not come there de proditiobus, &c. but Kent prayeth them to hang no men when they come.

Other tidings as yet can I none tell you, save Ulveston is Steward of the Middle Inn, and Isley of the Inner Inn, because they would have offices for excuse for dwelling this time from their wives, &c. Sir Thomas Todenham lost his Primer at the Tower-hill, and sent his man to seek it, and a good fellow wished it in Norfolk, so he would fetch it there, &c. ⁴ Men ween that Norfolk men were hardier than they be. God grant, and at the reverence of God help too that an outas (*outcry*) and clamour be made upon the Lord Scales, praying him for weal of the country, neither sustain nor help him nor Heydon in no wise, and that ye cry upon my master and yours that he obey not the Certiorari as yet, as you may see by his letter from my master

³ By what is mentioned of the Commissions going into Kent to try those guilty of Treasons &c. (if these were for that purpose) it appears as if it was not a great while after Cade's rebellion; and the Duke of York being one of the Commissioners, must have been greatly in favour of the rebels, as his friends were said to have stirred up the insurrection.

⁴ It seems as if some robust exercises had been performed on Tower-hill wherein the Norfolk men did not exert themselves in a manner that was expected from them.

and in hast be me endited of which I p'y excuse &c. And
prey Blake to do Swafh'm men sey sum what to ye matier J wote
well T and H wil not Come y'e at this tyme as it is verily re-
ported &c. Mitte sapien' &c. Brayn & J shalbe w^t you on Sat^rday
nest at Evyn with y^e grace of Jhu to whom J be take you in hast
at London the ij^{de} day of Ianuar.

By

11 by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$

J. Bocking.

^s J. Bocking was one in the household of Sir John Fastolf. Autograph. Pl. III. N^o 33.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

*To my Right trusty and
right welbeloued John
Paston*

R I G H T trusty and right welbeloued I grete you wele And
I am enfourmed that William Mathew of Norwich Bo-
cher hath brought an Accyon of dette agayn Nicholas Hert a
ten'nt of myn berer her'of And hath supposid by his Accyon
that my said ten'nt shuld ow hym lxx^s for his hire of tyme
that he shuld a ben f'uaunt to my said ten'nt Wher it is said
to me for trouthe that he was aprentyce to my said ten'nt and
neu^r othwise w^t holde but as aprentice and owith no mony to
haf of hym. I fend to yow my said ten'nt to gif yow clere in-
formacyon

rudely and in haste by me endited, of which I pray excuse, &c.
And pray Blake to do Swaffham men say somewhat to the matter. I weet well Todenham and Heydon will not come there at this time, as it is verily reported, &c. "Mitte sapientem, &c." Brayn and I shall be with you on Saturday next at even with the grace of Jesu, to whom I betake you. In haste at London the 2d day of January.

By

J. BOCKING.

London

2 Jan^r.

Between 1450 & 1454.

29 & 34 H. VI.

L E T T E R XXXII.

To my right trusty and right well beloved John Paston.

RIGHT trusty and right well beloved, I greet you well, and I am informed that William Mathew of Norwich, Butcher, hath brought an action of debt against Nicholas Hart a tenant of mine, bearer hereof, and hath supposed by his action that my said tenant should owe him seventy shillings for his hire, of time that he should have been servant to my said tenant; where (*as*) it is said to me for truth that he was apprentice to my said tenant, and never otherwise with-held but as apprentice, and oweth no money to have of him. I send to you my said tenant

T 2

formacyon of the mat^r And I p'y you that ye wole calle the Iurry before yow that arn impanellid betwen thaym and opne thaym the mat^r at large at myn instaunce and desire thaym to do as Concyens wole and to eschue p'iury. And the trinite kepe yow If ye take the mat^r in rule I p'y therof and wole be content Wretyn at Weuenho the xxviij day of Decembr

The Erle of Orenford.

11½ by 8½.

I have given this letter to shew the fairnes and moderation of a nobleman, in an age when the great men used to tyrannise almost with uncontrouled power over their inferiors.

It does the Earl credit as a man, and makes us lament his untimely death, being brought to the block in 1461 for his loyalty to his unfortunate Sovereign. Autograph. Pl. I. N^o 8.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To my welbelovyd Brother

John Paston Squier

BROTHER Paston I recomaunde me unto you praying you that ye take the labo^r. to speke w^t Tho's Ratclef of Frammesden for the delyr'aunce of p't of an hous which lythe in his wode at Fraumesden which hous the owen^r. hath caryed p't therof to Orford which so dep'ted the remen't y^t remayneth ther in his wode schall do hym lytell good and yt schall hurte gretly the warkeman and the owen^r. therof also which is my ten'nt & the hous schuld be set upon my ground J wright unto
you

nant to give you clear information of the matter, and I pray you that ye will call the Jury before you that are impanelled between them, and open (*to*) them the matter at large at mine instance, and desire them to do as conscience will, and to eschew perjury; and the Trinity keep you. If ye take the matter in rule, I pray thereof, and will be content. Written at Wivenhoe the 23th day of December.

THE EARL OF OXFORD.

Wivenhoe in Essex,

28 Decr.

most probably written

between 1450 & 1455.

29 & 34 H. VI.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To my well beloved Brother, John Paston, Esq.

BROTHER Paston, I recommend me unto you, praying you that ye take the labour to speak with Thomas Ratcliff of Framsden (*in Suffolk*) for the deliverance of part of an house which lyeth in his wood at Framsden, which house the owner hath carried part thereof to Orford, which so departed, the remanent, that remaineth there in his wood, shall do him little good, and it shall hurt greatly the workmen and the owner thereof also, which is my tenant, and (*if*) the house should be set upon my ground.

I write

you in this be halfe be cause I understond he woll be moche
 avised by you and yf he do ony thyng at my request I schall
 do as moche that schall plese hym and also the pore man schall
 gef hym ij nobles or xx^s rather yan fayle I p'y you be as good
 a mene for hym as ye may in this be halfe as my verry trust is
 in you and I schall be redy at all tymes to doo y^r may be to yo^r
 plesur I trust to jhu who have you in his kepyng and ¹fende yo^r
 joy of all yo^r ladyes Wretyn at Lederyngh'm this tewesday in
 Whisson weke

yo^r brother & frende

Wyngefeld I.

Paper Mark
 a Ring
 Pl. xxii. N^o 17.

Seal
 a pair of
 Wings
 Pl. xiv. N^o 20.

It appears from this Letter, that small houses were sometimes framed and made ready on the spot where the wood was felled; some dispute seems to have arisen here, and the owner or occupier of the wood refused his consent to the carrying away of the timber work after it had been made ready to set up.

¹ What is meant by this expression, "fende yo^r Joy of all yo^r ladyes," I do not understand, unless it should have been meant to signify, Send you all the joys of our Lady.

EEC=

I write unto you in this behalf, because I understand he will be much advised by you, and if he do any thing at my request I shall do as much that shall please him; and also the poor man shall give him two nobles, or twenty shillings, rather than fail; I pray you be as good a mean for him as ye may in this behalf, as my very trust is in you, and I shall be ready at all times to do that may be to your pleasure, I trust to Jesu, who have you in his keeping, and send you joy of all your ladies.

Written at Letheringham, this Tuesday in Whitfun week.

Your Brother and Friend,

J. WYNGFIELD.

Tuesday,

May or June,

between 1450 and 1460.

28 and 38 H. VI.

² Sir John Wyngfield, the writer of this Letter, was a knight of that very ancient family of Wingfield Castle, in Suffolk. He was now seated at Letheringham, and, I believe, married Margaret daughter of Sir Hugh Hastings, of Elsing in Norfolk. His signature is very particular, the initial I of his Christian name being placed at the end of his surname.

The family of Wingfield were remarkable for their ancestry, valour, and riches.

This letter seems to have been written towards the latter end of Henry VI.'s reign.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 7.

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

To my Ryght Worchipfull

Cosyn Margarete Paston

be yis lett^r deliv^{er}ed.

RYGH T Worchipfull and welbeloved cosyn I comāunde me to you as herteli as I can thankyng you off yo^r goode cher^e y^e last tyme I was w^t you And worchippfull cosyn please y^e you to calle un to your remēbrauns I wrote un to you For my cosyn Anneys loveday to have ben in yo^r s^rvic And I r^eseyved From you a lett^r that your wyll was goode but durst not to in to y^e tyme ye hadde spoke w^t my Cosyn your husbonde. Worchipfull Cosyn I have labored For hir in othir placez but I cā not have my entent as yet. Wherffor yff that hit please you to have hyr w^t you to in to y^e tyme that A Mastris may be p^rveyeid For hir I pray you ther off And I shal cōtēte you ffor hir boarde that ye shal be wel pleased For Cosyn And I hadde A wyff I wolde not care ffor hir And ther as she is she is not well at hir Ease For she is At Rob. lethum And therfor I pray you herteli that ye wyll tendr^e this my Wrytyng And I besече you that in cas be that ye wyll fulffylle hit that ye wel sende my Cosyn Will Staunton for hir And I shal kepe you trewe p^rmys. As I have
be

L E T T E R XXXIV:

To my right worshipful Cousin Margaret Paston be this letter delivered.

RIGHT worshipful and well beloved cousin I commend me to you as heartily as I can, thanking you of your good cheer the last time I was with you; and, worshipful cousin, please it you to call unto your remembrance, I wrote unto you for my cousin Anneys Loveday to have been in your service, and I received from you a letter that your will was good, but (*you*) durst not to into the time ye had spoken with my cousin your husband.

Worshipful cousin, I have laboured for her in other places, but I cannot have mine intent as yet, wherefore if that it please you to have her with you to into the time that a mistress may be purveyed for her, I pray you thereof, and I shall content you for her board, that ye shall be well pleased; for cousin and (*if*) I had a wife, I would not care for her; and there as (*where*) she is, she is not well at her ease, for she is at Robert Lethum's, and therefore I pray you heartily, that ye will tender this my writing, and I beseech you that in case be that ye will fulfil it, that ye will send my cousin William Staunton for her, and I shall keep (*to*) you true promise, as I have before written; and

VOL. III.

U

I beseech

be For Wrety And I beseche Almyghti Ihu p'se've you Wrety at
Hevenygh'm on y^e vij day off May &c.

your oune cosyn

John Hebenyngham, knyght.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. VIII. N^o 2.

I have given this Letter as shewing the method of educating young women of some family, but of small fortune, by placing them in the families of the gentry, &c.

It is plain, from Sir John's desiring that Margaret Paston would take her for a time as a boarder, that the young person was not to have been in the line of a common servant.

LETTER XXXII.

To my Cosyn Margeret

Paston be this letter

delivered

RYGH T Worshipfull Cosyn I Recomaund me unto you
desyryng to here of youre welfare And if it like you to
her of my welfar at the makynge of this letter I was in good hele
loved be God the cause of my wrytyng to you at this tyme is
this praying you to send me word of youre welfare and how ye
do of youre Seknesse and if the medycyn do you ony good that
I send you wrytyng of last Thankyng you of the grete Frenship
that ye have do to my moder w^t all my hert Also I pray you
that ye wyll be good meyn to my Cosyn youre hufbond that he
wyll se that my Fader be well Ruleyd in his lyvelode for his
worship & his p'fett Also prayng you to hold me excusyd that

I beseech Almighty Jesu preserve you. Written at Heveningham on the 7th day of May, &c.

Your own Cousin,

JOHN HEVENINGHAM, Knight.

Heveningham,

7 May,

Between 1450 and 1460. 28 and 38 H. VI.

He likewise shews a propriety of conduct in not taking her himself, as he was a widower; at the same time acknowledging that, had he had a wife, he should have found no difficulty in providing properly for her in his own family.

Sir John Heveningham married Elizabeth the daughter and heir of Sir John Reddisham, Knt. and he was living in 1459.

Autograph, Pl. xviii. N^o 10.

L E T T E R XXXV.

To my Cousin Margaret Paston be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worshipful Cousin, I recommend me unto you, desiring to hear of your welfare, and if it like you to hear of my welfare, at the making of this letter I was in good heale, loved be God. The cause of my writing to you at this time is this, praying you to send me word of your welfare, and how ye do of your sickness, and if the medicine do you any good that I sent you writing of last; thanking you of the great friendship that ye have done to my mother with all my heart.

Also I pray you that ye will be good mean to my cousin your husband, that he will see that my father be well ruled in his livelihood for his worship and his profit.

Also praying you to hold me excused, that I have written no

U 2

oftener

I haue wryten no offer to you for in good feth I had no leyfir
for my lady hath be seke at london ner hand this quarter of this
yere And that hath be grete hevinesse to me But now blesyd be
god she is amendyd & is in the ' Contre agayne Also thankynge
you of the grete chere that I had of you when I was w^t you
laste w^t all my herte prayng you of good Contenuanse for I had
neu^r gretter nede than I haue now and if I had leyser and space
I wolde write to you the cause No more at this tyme but the holy
trente have you in his kepyng Wryten at Wyndesore the xxix
day of June

Also Cosyn I pray you to sende
me sum Norfoke threde to do
a boute my ² nekke to ryde w^t.

By youre pore Bede oman
& Cosyn

³ Alice Crane.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5.
Paper Mark-
a Pair of sheers.
PL. XI. N^o 12.

The writer of this Letter might be sister (or daughter) of John Crane, the gentleman whose signature is to Letter XI. vol. i. p. 44. the date must remain quite uncertain between the years 1450 and 1460, which indeed is totally immaterial, as the Letter is given merely to shew that young women of good families were brought up as attendants upon ladies of rank, and served them not only in the capacity of the modern "Lady's Woman," but were taught all kinds of needle works, pastry, cookery, &c. thus qualifying them to become good mothers, frugal housewives, and useful members of the community. How sincerely is it to be lamented that the daughters of the gentry of the first rank, and of tradesmen, have now nearly the same education; every school is a "Boarding School for Young Ladies," where dress and the polite accomplishments (as they are

CCC=

oftener to you, for, in good faith, I had no leifure, for my lady hath been sick at London, near hand this quarter of this year, and that hath been great heavinefs to me; but now, bleffed be God, ſhe is amended, and is in the ¹ country again.

Alfo thanking you of the great cheer that I had of you when I was with you laſt with all my heart, praying you of good continuance, for I had never greater need than I have now, and if I had leifure and ſpace, I would write to you the cauſe.

No more at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Windſor the 29th day of June.

Alfo, Couſin, I pray you to ſend me ſome Norfolk thread to do about my ² neck to ride with.

By your poor Beadſwoman and Couſin,

³ ALICE CRANE.

Windſor,

29 June, between 1450 and 1460.

29 and 39 H. VI.

called) are indifcriminately taught to the young lady of family and fortune, and to the *young lady who has neither family nor fortune.*

¹ It appears from this letter likewise that the lady with whom ſhe lived was retired from London to Windſor, apparently for the benefit of the air.

² Something like a modern tippet ſeems to be here meant to be put about her neck as a part of her riding dreſs.

³ Autograph. Pl. XVIII, N^o 8.

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

*To my Right Reverent And
my moost wurshipful maystre
my maystre John Paston*

}

RIGHT wurshipfull and my mooste reuerent mastre I re-
comaunde me unto yo^r goode maystreship like you to
witte that on ⁱ childremasse daye there were moche people at
Norwich at the Shire be cauce it was noyced in the shire that the
undresheriff had a writte to make a newe alecon wherfore the
people was greved be cauce they had labored so often seying to
the sheriff that he had the writte And pleyndly he shulde not A
wey unto the tyme the writte were redd the sheriff answerd and
seyd that he had no writte nor wist who had it heruppon the
people peacyd and stilled unto the tyme the shire was doone and
aft^r that doone the people called uppon h^y kyllle h^y heede h^y
And so John Dam w^t helpe of other gate h^y out of the schire-

We see here a terrible instance of the ungovernable spirit of a multitude raised against the chief officer of the county for a supposed offence, for it does not appear that the Sheriff had secreted or delayed the writ; if he had done so, it is a treatment he might have expected in such unsettled and sanguinary times. Even in this modern age of refinement we see election disputes conducted with an animosity, by the friends of the different candidates, which in their cool and dispassionate moments they are themselves shocked at and ashamed of.

howe

L E T T E R XXXVI.

*To my right reverend and most worshipful Master, my Master,
John Paston.*

RIGHT worshipful and my most reverend master, I re-commend me unto your good mastership, like you to weet that on ¹ Childermas day there were much people at Norwich at the shire (*the county court*), because it was noised in the shire, that the Under-sheriff had a writ to make a new election, wherefore the people was grieved because they had laboured so often, saying to the Sheriff that he had the writ, and plainly he should not away unto the time the writ were read. The Sheriff answered and said, that he had no writ, nor wist who had it: hereupon the people peaced (*became peaceable*), and stilled unto the time the shire was done, and after that done, the people called upon him, "kill him, head him," and so John Damme with help of others, gat him out of the shire-house, and with much

J. Paston, from the contents of this letter, appears to have been a man of consequence and respect in the county.

¹ Childermas day is the 28th of December, and the day of the week on which it fell was reckoned an unfortunate day throughout the following year to begin any undertaking, &c. The same superstition at this time reigns in many places, and amongst many persons even above the vulgar.

labour.

hows And w^t moche labor brought hym unto ² Sporyer rowe and ther the people mett a yens^t h^y And so they a voided h^y unto An hows and kept fast the dore unto the tyme the meyer was sent fore And the Sherif to strenght h^y and to convey h^e A wey or ell he had be slayne Wherfor diu^s of the thrifty men came to me desiryng that I shulde writte unto yo^r maistreship to lete you haue undrestandyng of the gidyng of the people For they be full fory of this trowble and that it plese you to sende h^e yo^r advice how they shal be gided and rwled For they were p^posed to A gathered an C or CC of the thriftyest men and to haue come up to the kyng to lete the kyng haue undrestandyng of ther mokkyng And also the people fere h^e fore of you and mastre Berney be cauce ye come not home plese you that ye remembr the bill I sent you at Hallowmesse for the place and londs at Boyton weche Cheseman had in his ferme for v mark ther wol no man haue it above ³ xlvj^s viij^d for Alblastre and I haue do as moche therto as we can but we can not go A bove that And yet we can not lete it so for this yere w^t owte they haue it for v or vj yere I wrote to your maistreship herof but I had non Answre Wherfor I beseeche you that I may haue an Answere of this be Tlwelthe for and we have an Answre of this be that tyme we shull enfeffe h^e w^t all, etc. my right wurshipfull and my moost reuerent maistre almyghty Jhu p^rserve you and send you the victorye of yo^r el-

² Spurrier Row was what is now called the White Lyon Lane, and leads from the Castle Ditches to the Market-place; it took its name from the shops of those who sold saddles, bridles, spurs, &c. &c.

labour brought him into ² Spurrier row, and there the people met against him, and so they avoided him (*withdrew him for safety*) into an house, and kept fast the door unto the time the Mayor was sent for, and the Sheriff, to strengthen him, and to convey him away, or else he had been slain; wherefore divers of the thrifty men came to me, desiring that I should write unto your mastership, to let you have understanding of the guiding of the people, for they be full sorry of this trouble; and that it please you to send them your advice how they shall be guided and ruled, for they were purposed to have gathered an hundred or two hundred of the thriftiest men, and to have come up to the King, to let the King have understanding of their mocking.

And also the people fear them fore of you, and of Master Berney, because ye come not home.

Please you that ye remember the bill I sent you at Hallowmas for the place and lands at Beighton which Cheeseman had in his farm for five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) there will no man have it above ³ forty-six shillings and eight pence, for Alblaister and I have done as much thereto as we can, but we cannot go above that, and yet we cannot let it so for this year, without they have it for five or six years; I wrote to your mastership hereof, but I had none answer, wherefore I beseech you that I may have answer of this by Twelfth (6 *January*) for and (*if*) we have an answer of this by that time we shall enfeof him with all, &c.

My right worshipful and my most reverend master, Almighty

³ It appears by this, that the rents of lands were at this time declining, owing most probably to the unsettled state of the nation.

myes as I truſte to Almyghty Ihu ye ſhall wretē at Norwich on
Seyn Thom' Daye aft^r Criſtemaſſe Daye.

yo^r pore fr̄vāt and bedman

⁴ R. Call.

12 by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$

Paper Mark

a Pair of Sheers.

Pl. xxii. N^o 18.

⁴ He afterwards married Margery, the daughter of J. Paſton. The date of this Letter is uncertain, but moſt probably towards the latter part of the reign of Henry VI.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my Mayſtr John
Paſton in Ryght gret
haſt.

SYR and it pleſe I was in my lord of Yorks howſe And
I herde meche thynges more yanne my mayſtr wrytyth
un to yow of I herde meche thynges in Fleteſtrede but Sr. my
lord was w^t the kynge and he veſaged ſo the mater y' alle y^e
kyngeſ howſhold was and is aferd ryght ſore and my ſeyd lord
hayth putte a bille to y^e kynge and deſyryd meeche thynges
qwyche is meeche aft^r ye Comouns deſyre and all is up on Juſtic
and to putte all thoſe y^t ben indyted under areſt w^t owte ſuerte
or maynpryce and to be tryed be lawe as lawe wyll Jn ſo meeche
y^t on Monday Sr. W. Oldhall was w^t the kynge atte Weſtm'
more yanne to houres and hadde of y^e kynge good cher And
y^e kynge deſyryd of Sr W. Oldhall y^t he ſhuld ſpeke to heſe
Coſyn York yⁱ he wold be good lord to John Penycok And y^t

Jesu preserve you and fend you the victory of your enemies, as I trust to Almighty Jesu ye shall.

Written at Norwich on St. Thomas's day after Christmas day.

Your poor Servant and Beadsman,

RICHARD CALL,

Norwich,

St. Thomas Becket,

29 Dec. between 1450 and 1460.

29 and 39 H. VI.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9.

LETTER XXXVII.

To my Master, John Paston, in right great haste.

SIR, and it please, I was in my Lord of York's house, and I heard much thing more than my master writeth unto you of; I heard much thing in Fleet-street; but, Sir, my Lord was with the King, and he visaged so the matter that all the King's household was, and is, afraid right sore, and my said Lord hath put a bill to the King, and desired much thing, which is much after the Commons desire, and all is upon justice, and to put all those that be indicted under arrest, without surety or mainprise, and to be tried by law as law will, insomuch that on Monday Sir William Oldhall was with the King at Westminster more than two hours, and had of the King good cheer; and the King desired of Sir William Oldhall that he should speak to his cousin York, that he would be good Lord to John Penycok, and that my Lord

my lord of York shuld wryte un to hese ten'nce that they wold suffyr Peny Cocks Officers go and gader up hys rents fermes w^t janne y^e seyde dukes lordsheps and S^r. William Oldhall answherd ayen to y^e kynge and preyed hym to hold my lord escusyd for thow my lord wrotte under hese seale of hys armes hys ten'ntez wyll not obeyet In Someche' Whanne S^r Thomas Hoo mette w^t my lord of Zork be yon sent Albons ye Western men felle upon hym and wold a slayne hym hadde S^r William Oldhall abe And y^rfor wold y^e West^rne men affalle up on y^e seyde S^r William and akyllyd hym And so he tolde the kynge S^r Borle Jonge and Iosse labour fore for Heydon and Tudenh'm to S^r Wile' Oldhall and p^rfyr more yanne to Thowfand Pownde for to have hese good lordshep And y^rfor it is noon oy^r Remedye but late Swhafham men be warned to mete w^t my seyde lord on Fryday nest Comyng atte Pykenh'm on horfsebak in y^e most goodly wyse and putte sum bylle un to my lord of S^r Thomas Tudenh'm Heydon and Prentys and crye owte on hem And y^e all the women of y^e same Towne be y^r also and crye owte on hem also and calle hem extorconners And pray my lord y^t he wyll do shap executyons up on hem. And my Mayst^r Councyll yow that ze shuld meve y^e Meyer and all y^e Aldermen w^t all her Comoners to ryde ayens my lord And y^t y^r ben madde byllez and putte them up to my lord and late all y^e Towne cry

This Letter from a favourer of the Duke of York's interest, must have been written between the years 1451 and 1456, at such time as the King was under the direction and guidance of the Yorkists, as it affords us a variety of directions relative to their proceedings, and for their acquiring friends in the House of Commons. Sir William Oldhall was Speaker of that House in 1451 and 1452, but it does not appear that he was so at the time this Letter was written, though, from his being so particularly mentioned, if not Speaker, he was certainly a man of weight and consequence there.

owte

of York should write unto his tenants that they should suffer Penycok's officers (*to*) go and gather up his rent farms within the said Duke's Lordships; and Sir William Oldhall answered again to the King, and prayed him to hold my Lord excused, for though my Lord wrote under his Seal of his Arms his tenants will not obey it, infomuch (*that*) when Sir Thomas Hoe met with my Lord of York beyond Saint Alban's the Western men fell upon him and would have slain him, had (*not*) Sir William Oldhall have been, and therefore would the Western men have fallen upon the said Sir William, and have killed him, and so he told the King.

Sir Borle Yonge and Joffe labour sore for Heydon and Todenham to Sir William Oldhall, and proffer more than two thousand pounds for to have his good Lordship, and therefore it is none other remedy but let Swaffham men be warned to meet with my said Lord on Friday next coming at Pickenham on horseback in the most goodly wise, and put some bill unto my Lord of Sir Thomas Todenham, Heydon, and Prentice, and cry out on them, and that all the women of the same town be there also, and cry out on them also, and call them Extortioners, and pray my Lord that he will do sharp execution upon them. And my Master counsel you that ye should move the Mayor and all the Aldermen with all their Commoners to ride against (*to meet*) my Lord, and that there be made bills, and put them up to my Lord, and let all the town cry out on Heydon,

J. Paston also seems to have been a man of much consideration and interest in the County of Norfolk, from the requests here made to him, and the instructions given him.

We have in this Letter a curious and natural description of a state divided by factions, from which the historian may draw a truer picture of the times here treated of, than from any sketches hitherto exhibited.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o II.

Todenham.

owte on Heydon Todenh'm Wyndh'm and Prentys And of all here fals mayntenours and telle my lord how meche hurte y^e have don to y^e Cetye and late y^t be don in the most lamentabyl wyse for S^r but yf my lord here sum fowle tales of hem And sum hyddows noys and Crye by my feyth y^e arne ellys lyke to Come to g'ce And y'for S^r remember yow of all these maters Syr also J spake w^t William Norwych and asked hym aft^r. y^e lord Moleyns how he stod to my lord ward and he told me he was for owte of g'ce and y^t my lord of York lovyth hym nought William Norwych tolde me y^t he durste undertake for to brynge yow un to my lord and make hym your ryght good lord And S^r my Mayst^r Counceyllid yow y^t ze shuld not spare but gete yow hese good lordsh' S^r be ware of Heydon for he wold destroyed yow be my Feyth y^e lorde Scales and S^r William Oldhall arne made Frendys S^r labour ze for be knyth of the Shire and And speke to my Mayst^r Stapulton also y^t he be yt S^r all Swaf'hm and they be warned wyll zeve yow here voyfes S^r speke w^t Th^r Denys And take hese good Avys y'in S^r speke to Denys y^t he avoyde hys garyson atte Rydon for y' is non oy^r remedy but deth for Danyell And for all yos y^t arne indyted S^r labour ze to y^e Meyer y^t John Dam or Will Ienney be Burgeys for y^e Cetye of Norwych telle them y^t he may be yt as well as Yonge is of Brystow or y^e Record^r is of London And as y^e recordour of Coventr is for y^e Cite of Coventre And it so in many places in Ingland also S^r thynk on Yernemonth y^t ze ordeyne y^t Iohn Ienney or Limno^r. or sum good man be burgeys for Yernemouth ordeyne ze y^t Ienneys mown ben in the

Todenham, Windham, and Prentice, and of all their false maintainers, and tell my Lord how much hurt they have done to the City, and let it be done in the most lamentable wise, for Sir but if (*unless*) my Lord hear some foul tales of them, and some hideous noise and cry, by my faith they are else like to come to grace, and therefore Sir remember you of all these matters.

Sir, also I spake with William Norwich, and asked him after the Lord Molyns how he stood to my Lord ward, and he told me he was fore out of grace, and that my Lord of York loveth him nought; William Norwich told me that he durst undertake for to bring you unto my Lord, and make him your right good Lord; and Sir my master counselled you that ye should not spare, but get you his good Lordship.

Sir beware of Heydon for he would (*have*) destroyed you by my faith.

The Lord Scales and Sir William Oldhall are made friends.

Sir, labour ye for (*to*) be Knight of the shire, and speak to my Master Stapleton also that he be it; Sir, all Swaffham, and (*if*) they be warned, will give you their voices; Sir, speak with Thomas Denys and take his good advice therein; Sir, speak to Denys that he avoid his Garrison at Reydon, for there is none other remedy but death for Daniel, and for all those that are indicted; Sir, labour ye to the Mayor that John Dam or William Jenney be Burgefs for the City of Norwich, tell them that he may be it as well as Yonge is of Bristol; or the Recorder is of London; and as the Recorder of Coventry is for the city of Coventry; and it (*is*) so in many places in England. Also, Sir, think on Yarmouth that ye ordain that John Jenney, or Lomnor, or some good man be Burgefs for Yarmouth; ordain

ye

the plement for they kun feye well Sr it wore wyfdam y^t my lord of Oxenford wayte on my lord of Yorke in good feyth good Sr thynke on all these maters meche more I hadde to wryte on to yow yf I kowde a remembryd me but I hadde no leyfer be my fyth hold me escused of my lewde rude wrytyng late John Dam be ware for y^e lorde Moleyns and Sr late y^e Cetye be ware for he wyll do hēm a velony but yf he may have hese men And Sr yf he Come to Norwych loke y' be redy to wayte up on y^e Mayer a good fellowshep for it is feyd her y^t they arne but bestys Sr. my Mayst^r bad me wryte un to yow y^t ze shuld store y^e Mayer and alle y^e Alderman to crye on my lord y^t they mown have Justyce of these men y^t be indyted And y^t my lorde wyll speke un to y^e kyng y^e of And Sr in div's partes in y^e Towne y' my lorde Comyth y' wolde be ordeyned many porcons of Comeners to crye on my lord for Justice of these men y^t arne indyted and telle her nammes in speciall Todenh'm Heydon Wyndh'm Prentys Sr I cende yow a Copy of the bylle y^t my lord of Yorke putte un to y^e kyng, And Sr late Copyes go abowte the Cetye I now for y^e love of God wyhe have yow in hese kepyng Wretyn on Seynt Feyth daye in Haft.

Be yowr Srvūt,

W. Wapte.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17.

Paper Mark,
A Pillar and Crofs.
Pl. XXI. N^o 7.

LET

ye that Jenneys may be in the parliament for they can say well.

Sir, it were wisdom that my Lord of Oxford wait on my Lord of York; in good faith, good Sir, think on all these matters; much more I had to write unto you, if I could have remembered me, but I had no leifure by my faith, hold me excused of my lewd rude writing; let John Dam beware for the Lord Molyns; and, Sir, let the City beware for he will do them a villainy, but if (*unless*) he may have his men; and Sir, if he come to Norwich, look there be ready to wait upon the Mayor a good fellowship, for it is said here that they are but Beasts.

Sir, my Master bade me write unto you that ye should stir the Mayor and all the Aldermen to cry on my Lord that they may have justice of these men that be indicted, and that my Lord will speak unto the King thereof; and Sir, in divers parts in the town there (*where*) my Lord cometh, there would be ordained many portions (*parties*) of Commoners to cry on my Lord for justice of these men that are indicted, and tell their names, in special Todenham, Heydon, Windham, (*and*) Prentice. Sir, I send you a copy of the bill that my Lord of York put unto the King, and Sir, let copies go about the city enough, for the love of God, which have you in his keeping. Written on Saint Faith's day in haste.

By your Servant,

WILLIAM WAYTE.

6th of October.

Between 1451 and 1456.

30 and 35 H. VI.

VOL. III.

Y

LET

LETTER XXXIII.

*This lre be delyured to John
Paston beyng at london in the
Jnnere in of the temple.*

I Grete you well and sende yo^u goddes bliffyng and my and
as touchyng the mat^r wheche ye desyryd my Cosyn Clere
shulde write fore she hath doo and I sende you the Copy closed
in this lre As for the enquerre I haue sent by Pynchemo^r to
enquere and sent myn owen men to Will^m Bakton and don
hem enquired in dyu^rse plac^s and I can here no woord of noon
fuych enquerans I wot no^t what it mehyth Roberd Hill was at
Paston thys wyke and the man that dwelled in bowres place is
oute ther of and seid to Roberd he durst no leng^r abyde ther in
for Waryn Hermā seyth to hī it is his place As for cokets mat^r
my dought your wyf told me yest^r even the mā that fuyth him
will now stonde to your awarde Bertilmow White is Condem-
nyd in Forⁿecet court in xl. marc as it is seid It^m as for talfas
the sherevis hau be hest to do all the favo^r thei may J sente the
p^rson of feynt Edmūdes to Gilberd and he seide ther was Come
a newe writ for to haue hī vp by the xv Day of feynt Martyn
and

On the back of this Letter is written,

“It appereth by this lre that S^r Jo. Fastolf was of kynred to John Paston ā^r.”

The date of this Letter cannot be ascertained farther than that it was written between
1444, when Sir William Paston died, and 1459, the year in which Sir John Fastolf
deceased.

It contains nothing material, but I think it throws light upon the character of Agnes
Paston, shewing her in the light of one, who was ever attentive to her family and her
fortunes.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

This Letter be delivered to John Paston, being at London, in the Inner Inn of the Temple.

I Greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, and as touching the matter which ye desired my Cousin Clerc should write for, she hath done, and I send you the copy closed in this Letter. As for the enquiry I have sent by Pynchemore to enquire and sent mine own man to William Baſton, and done him enquire in divers places, and I can hear no word of none such enquirance, I wot not what it meaneth. Robert Hill was at Paston this week, and the man that dwelled in Bowers place is out thereof, and said to Robert he durst no longer abide therein, for Waryn Herman sayeth to him it is his place. As for Coket's matter, my daughter your wife told me yester even, the man that sueth him will now stand to your award.

Bartholomew White is condemned in Fornet Court in 40 marks (26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) as it is said.

Item, as for Talfas, the Sheriffs have behest to do all the favour they may, I sent the parson of St. Edmund's to Gilbert, and he said there was come a new writ for to have him up by the 15th

fortunes, and interested herself in having a proper provision made for her younger children. We shall see that the Duke of Norfolk afterwards claimed Caister, and laid a regular siege to it.

There are one or two expressions in this Letter which I do not exactly understand.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 19.

The Lady Boys mentioned in this Letter was Sibilla, widow of Sir Roger Boys, of Honing; she was living in 1450.

and how caly hadde ben at hem and desired to carye vp talfas on his owen Cost and yeue hem goode wages It'm John Osbern seide to me this Day that he supposed thei will not haue hi vp be forn Estern and Margerete talfas seide to me the same day that men tolde hire that he shulde neu^r hau ende till he wer at london and asked me Counsell whed^r she myte yeue the therevys fylur or non And I tolde hire if she dede J supposed she shulde fynde hem the more frendly It'm as for horwelbur I sende you a bill of all the rescyts syn the deth of your fader and a Copy wrete on the bak how your fad^r lete it to ferme to the seide Gurnay I wolde ye shulde write Gurnay and charge hi to mete w^t yo^u fro london warde and at the lest weye lete hi purveye x li for owyth be my reknyng at myhelfmesse last passed be fyde your faddes dette xviii li. xiiij^s viij^d if ye wolde write to hi to brynge suerte for your fady's dette and myn And pay be dayes so y^t the ma myte leven and paye vs I wolde for yeue hi of the olde arrerags x li. and he myte be mad to paye xx marc be yer on that Condicon I wolde for yeue hi x li. And so thynketh me he shulde hau cause to p[']ye for your fad^r and me and was it leten in my fad[']es tyme I fele by Roberd his wif is right loth to gon thens she seide that sche had leu^r J shulde haue all her gode aft^r her day than thei schulde go out ther of It'm John Dam told me that y^e lady Boys will selle a place called Halys but he seith sche speketh it p[']vyly and seith it is not tayled as John Dam kno wech will she hath seide as largely of oy^r thys y^t hath not be so It'm he tolde me as he herd seyn Ser John Fastolf

day of Saint Martin, and how Caly had been at home, and desired to carry up Talfas on his own cost, and give him good wages.

Item, John Osbern said to me this day that he supposed they will not have him up before Easter, and Margaret Talfas said to me the same day, that men told her that he should never have end till he were at London, and asked me counsel, whether she might give the Sheriffs silver or none, and I told her if she did, I supposed she should find them the more friendly.

Item, as for Horwelbury I send you a bill of all the receipts since the death of your father, and a copy written on the back how your father let it to farm to the said Gurney; I would ye should write (to) Gurney and charge him to meet with you from Londonward, and at the least way let him purvey ten pounds for (be) oweth by my reckoning at Michaelmas last past, beside your father's debt, 18*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* if ye would write to him to bring surety both for your father's debt and mine, and pay by days so that the men might live and pay us, I would forgive him of the old arrearages ten pounds, and (if) he might be made to pay 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) by year, on that condition I would forgive him ten pounds, and so thinketh me he should have cause to pray for your father and me, and was it let in my father's time. I feel by Robert, his wife is right loth to go thence, she said that she had lever (*rather*) I should have all her goods after her day than they should go out thereof.

Item, John Dam told me that the Lady Boys will sell a place called Hales, but he saith she speaketh it privily, and saith it is not tailed (*entailed*), as John Dam know, which will she hath said as largely of other things that hath not been so.

Item, he told me as he heard said, Sir John Fastolf hath sold

Hellefdon.

Fastolf hath sold Heylysdon to boleyne of london And yf it be
 so it semeth he will selle more wherfor I p'ye you as ye will haue
 my loue and my bliffyng y^t ye will helpe and do your deu^t that
 sumthyg wer p'chased for your ij bretheren I suppose y^t Sr John
 Fastolf and he wer spake to wolde be glader to lete his Kenfeme
 hau p'te than straunge mē asay hī in my name of suych place
 as ye suppose is most Cler it is seid in this Contre y^t my lord
 of Norfolk seith fer John Fastolf hath youen hī Castr and he
 will hau pleyndly I sende yo^r a bill of Osbern hand which was
 the ansuer of the sheref and John of Dam Jon brynge me my
 lre hom with you and my Cosyn Cler is Copy of her lre and
 the Copy of the reseyth of Horwelbury And recomaunde me
 to lomno^r and tell hī his best be loued fareth well but sche is
 not yet Come to Norwich for thei deye yet but not so for as
 thei dede And God be wyth you Wretē at Norwych in right
 gret hast the xvj day of Novembr.

By your moder,

Anneys Paston.

11 ½ by 11.

Paper Mark,
 A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

LET

Hellefdon to Boleyn of London, and if it be so, it seemeth he will sell more, wherefore I pray you, as ye will have my love and my blessing, that ye will help and do your devoir that some thing were purchased for your two brethren; I suppose that Sir John Fastolf, and (*if*) he were spoke to, would be gladder to let his Kinsmen have part than strange men; assay him in my name of such places as ye suppose is most clear.

It is said in this country that my Lord of Norfolk saith Sir John Fastolf hath given him Caister, and he will have (*it*) plainly. I fend you a bill of Osbern's hand, which was the answer of the Sheriff and John of Dam.

John, bring me my Letter home with you, and my cousin Clere's copy of her Letter, and the copy of the receipt of Horwellbury, and recommend me to Lomner, and tell him his best beloved fareth well, but she is not yet come to Norwich, for they die yet, but not so sore as they did, and God be with you. Written at Norwich, in right great haste, the 16th day of November.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Norwich, 16th of November,

Between 1444 and 1459.

23 and 38 H. VI.

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

*To my Right worchepful
husbond John Paston be this
delyverid in hast.*

RIGHT worchepful husbond I Comaund me to yow. J pray yow that ye wol do bye ij doseyne trenchors for I Can none gete in this town Also I pray yow that ye wol send me a booke wy^t chardeqweyns that I may have of in the monyngs for the Eycles be not holsom in this town therfor J pray yow hertely lete John Suffeld bryng it hom wy^t hym. No more but the blyssid Ternyte have yow in hese kepyng And send yow good sped in all yowre maters. Wrete on Sent leonard even.

My uncle Phelyppe commaund hym to yow and he hath be so seke sith that I come to Redh'm that I wend he shuld never a askapid it nor not is leke to do but if he have redy help and therefore he shal into Suff this next weke to myn aunt for there is a good Fescian and he shal loke to hym. My Lady Hastyngs told me that Heydon hath spoke to Geffrey Boleyn of London and is a greid wyttht hym that he shuld
bargeyn

I have copied this Letter as containing a recipe against bad air; but whether or not Cardamoms are meant I cannot tell, they are said to be warm and attenuating, and to comfort the head and stomach, and, therefore, I should suppose, proper to be taken in a morning as a preservative against the effects of bad air.

The fair leaves of Artichokes, when blanched and rendered less bitter, are likewise called Chards; these as being flat might be kept in a Book, and in that state brought
from

L E T T E R XXXIX.

To my right worshipful husband John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I commend me to you, I pray you that ye will do buy two dozen trenchers, for I can none get in this town; also I pray you that ye will send me a Book with Chardeqweyns that I may have of in the morning, for the air be not wholesome in this town, therefore I pray you heartily let John Suffield bring it home with him.

No more, but the blessed Trinity have you in his keeping, and send you good speed in all your matters. Written on St. Leonard's even.

My uncle Philip commends him to you, and he hath been so sick since that I came to Reedham, that I wend he should never have escaped it, nor not is like to do, but if (*unless*) he have ready help, and therefore he shall into Suffolk this next week, to mine aunt, for there is a good Physician, and he shall look to him.

My Lady Hastyngs told me that Heydon hath spoken to Jeffrey Boleyn of London, and is agreed with him that he

from foreign parts ready for use, as we had no Artichokes till long after this time in England. These were accounted very wholesome; it is probably therefore that these are the things mentioned.

Margaret Paston's uncle Philip Berney died in 1453, therefore this Letter must be written about that time.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

bargeyn wy^t Sr Iohn Fastolff to bye the man^r of Blyklyng as it were for hymselff and if Boleyn byet in trowght Heydon shal have it.

Yor.

M. P.

I cam to Norwiche on Sowlemesday.

11 1/2 by 8.

Paper Mark.

A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

L E T T E R

To my Right worshipfull

hosbond Iohn Paston be y^{is}

delyv'yd in hast.

RIGHT worshipfull Hosbond I recomawnd me to yow prayig yow to wete y^t I spak yistirday w^t my Suster and she told me y^t she was fory y^t she myght not speke w^t yow or ye yede And she desyrith if itt pleased yow y^t ye shuld yeve y^e Jantylman y^t ye know of seche langage as he myght fele by yow y^t ye wull be wele willig to y^e mat^r y^t ye know of For she told me y^t he hath seyde befor y^{is} tym y^t he cōseyvid y^t ye have sett but lytil y^tby Wherefor she prayth yow y^t ye woll be here gode brother and y^t ye myght have a full answer at y^{is} tym whedder it shall

should bargain with Sir John Fastolf to buy the manor of Blickling, as it were for himself, and if Boleyn buy it, in truth Heydon shall have it.

I came to Norwich on Soul mas's day (2d of November.)

Yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Sunday, 5th of November,

1452. 32 H. VI.

L E T T E R XL,

*To my right worshipful husband John Paston, be this
delivered in haste.*

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that I spake yesterday with my sister, and she told me that she was sorry that she might not speak with you ere ye yede (*went*); and she desired, if it pleased you, that ye should give the Gentleman, that ye know of, such language as he might feel by you, that ye will be well willing to the matter that ye know of; for she told me that he hath said before this time that he conceived that ye have set but little thereby; wherefore she prayeth you that ye will be her good brother, and that ye might have a full answer at this time

Z 2

whether

shall be ya or nay for her moder hath seyde to her fyth y^e ye redyn hens y^e she hath no fantesye y^einne but y^e it shall com to A jape And seyde to her y^e y^e is gode Crafte in dawbyg And hath seche langage to her y^e she thynk^t right strange and so y^e she is right wery y^eof Wherefor she desyrith y^e rather to have A full cōclusyon y^einne she seyde her full trost is in yow and as ye do y^einne she woll agre her y^eto Mayst^r. ¹ Braklee be her yist^rday to have spoke w^t yow I spak w^t hym but he wold not tell me what his erond was it is seyde her y^e y^e cesc^ons shall be at Thetford on Sat^rday next komyng and ther shall be my lord of Norff^r and other w^t grette pupill as it is seyde oy^r tydyns have we none yett The blissefull Trynyte have yow in his kep^yg Wretyn at Norwyche on y^e Tewysday next befor Candelmasse.

I p^ry yow y^e ye woll vouchesawf to remembr to p^rvey a th^g for my nekke and to do make my gyrdill.

Yowris,

³ M. P.

My Cos^r ² Crane recōmawnd^t her to yow and p^rytth yow to remēbr her mater &c. for she may not slepe on nyghtys for hym.

11 ½ by 5 ¾

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

The conversation in this Letter must refer to some offer of marriage made to his sister Elizabeth Paston, who afterwards married Robert Poynings; and I should suppose the Letter to have been written in January 1452-3, from the request in it for him to buy his wife some ornament for her neck; as the same petition had been made in Letter XV. Vol. I. p. 71. which was dated April 1452, and probably not yet complied with.

¹ John Bracklee or Brackley, was a brother of the Convent of Grey Friars, or Friars Minors, in Norwich; he took a Doctor of Divinity's degree, and was a famous preacher.

UCC

whether it shall be yea or nay; for her mother hath said to her
 fyth (*since*) that ye ridden hence, that she hath no fantasy
 therein, but that it shall come to a jape (*come to nothing*); and
 faith to her that there is good craft in daubing; and hath
 such language to her that she thinketh right strange, and so
 that she is right weary thereof; wherefore she desireth the rather
 to have a full conclusion therein. She faith her full trust is in
 you, and as ye do therein, she will agree her thereto.

¹ Master Brackley was here yesterday to have spoken with you;
 I spake with him, but he would not tell me what his errand was.

It is said here that the Sessions shall be at Thetford on Satur-
 day next coming, and there shall be my Lord of Norfolk and
 others with great people, as it is said.

Other tidings have we none yet, the blefsful Trinity have you
 in his keeping. Written at Norwich on the Tuesday next before
 Candlemas.

I pray you that ye will vouchsafe to remember to purvey a
 thing for my neck, and to do make (*have made*) my girdle.

Yours,

³ MARGARET PASTON.

My Cousin ² Crane recommendeth her to you, and prayeth
 you to remember her matter, &c. for she may not sleep on
 nights for him.

Norwich, Tuesday 30th of January,

1452-3. 31 H. VI.

² Who the gentleman was, or what the important matter could be, which prevented
 her cousin Crane from sleeping, must be left in doubt, unless some of my fair Readers,
 who shall do me the honour to peruse these Letters, may have penetration enough to dis-
 cover either the one or the other.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

LETTER XLII.

*To my Right Wurshipfull
Maister Iohn Paston.*

RIGHT wurshipfull and myn especiall good maist^r I re-
comaund me to you w^t all f^rvice and prayer to my power
and like it you to wete that how be a full straunge acte is passid
agayn me in the higher ho['] before the lords. Wherof I send you
a Copie. neu^thelesse I hope to god that it shal not passe in the
Comon ho[']. but me is be falle the most forwfull infortune that
eu^r por man had standyng in suyche case as I do for my lordis
the Cardenale and of Oxenford haf imp[']soned my wif in the
Counto^r. and how thei shal guyde hir forth god know^t. Which
standith to nygh myn hert if godds will were but wel I know
that by thes vengeable malics don to hir and me thei wole be
Content for Ingh[']m lithe beside that to take away my wyues
doughter out of Westm^r to make an end of my wif if he can
and also to arest my f^runtz that I drede that she nor I shal haf

I have given this curious Letter as a specimen of the outrages committed by the great
upon respectable gentlemen; for though the writer has put no name to his Letter, he
appears to have been a man of property, and of some consequence, and most probably
had married an heiress of fortune, as he mentions his wife's place in Norwich. There
being an act of parliament passed, shews that he was a man of some consideration.

At this time the most arbitrary methods were used to obtain the possession of estates,
and entries were made in the most forcible manner; though perhaps in this case there
might be some proper reasons for these proceedings under the direction of the Cardinal
and Lord Oxford.

His wife's daughter was also most probably an heiress, of whom Ingham had obtained
the wardship, by which means he would demand a sum of money on her marriage.

The Inghams were a most ancient and knightly family, situated at Ingham, in Norfolk,
of which the male line in the capital branch had failed in 1344, this person was therefore
some collateral issue.

L E T T E R XLI.

To my right worshipful Master, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful and mine especial good master, I commend me to you with all service and prayer to my power, and like it you to weet that how be a full strange act is passed against me in the higher house before the Lords, whereof I fend you a Copy, nevertheless I hope to God that it shall not pass in the Common house; but me is befallen the most sorrowful infortune that ever poor man had, standing in such case as I do; for my Lords the Cardinal and of Oxford have imprisoned my wife in the Counter, and how they shall guide her forth God knoweth, which standeth too nigh mine heart, if God's will were, but well I know that by these vengeable malices done to her and me they will (*not q?*) be content, for Ingham lithe (*lieth*) beside that to take away my wife's daughter out of Westminster to make an end of my wife if he can, and also to arrest my servants, that I dread that she nor I shall have no creature to

The Cardinal here mentioned must have been John Kemp, first bishop of Rochester, next of Chichester, then of London, from which see he was removed to York, and in 1452 became archbishop of Canterbury. In 1439 he was made Cardinal of St. Balbine, and a short time before his death was removed to the cardinalship of St. Rufine; these various preferments were briefly recorded in the following line,

"Bis Primas, ter Præses, et bis Cardine functus."

He died very old, and very rich, in the beginning of the year 1453, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was beheaded in 1461. 1 E. IV.

The conclusion of this Letter conveys an insinuation that the King was improperly fettered by the ruling of this Archbishop.

attend:

no creature to attend us ne help us. And fuych malice haf I neu^r herd of herbeforn'. And it is told me that beside that thei wole dispoil if any good thei Can fynde of myn in Norwich or Norff' and imp'fone my f'untz there Wherfore I lowly be-
seche yo^r maist^rship for our lords m'cy that ye vouchsauff to foco^r theym in this necessite And if ony entree be made or shuld be made upon myn wifes place in Norwich that ye vouchsauff to foco^r my f'untz and do ther jnne aftir yo^r wisdam. For crists love and seynt charite beside this a frend and kynnesman of myn oon Rob't Clement of Betele hath writen to me that he is arestid and like to be imp'foned bi a writte of dette take agayn hym upon an obligacon of C^{li} in which he and I and oth'r wer bounde to my lorde of Oxenford xiiij yeer agone. Wherof I haf many acquitaunces. Wherfore I p'y your good maist^rship to send to the Shirreve that my said kynnesman may ben easid and no retourne made ageyn hym but that he may answer the next tyme bi Attourney For truly that Writte was take oute in the end of the t'me aftir I was arestid and aftir it was aperid to. J p'y your maist^rship for godds sake to be not displeid ne wery to do for me in these mat'es of yo^r charite for I had lev' gif the said Rob't fuych good litell if it be as I haf than he wer undone for me or ony man ellis that eu^r ded for me. And I hope if god vouchsaf that the mat' may Come to reson to sauf hym harmles and all other w^t godds m'cy eu^r p'ying you of yo^r maist^rship and foco^r for godds love who eu^r kepe you for his m'cy Wretyn in Flete the Wednesday the second weke of lent. Mor ou^r in
aug-

attend us nor help us; and such malice have I never heard of heretofore; and it is told me that beside that they will despoil, if any good they can find of mine in Norwich or Norfolk, and imprison my servants there; wherefore I lowly beseech your mastership for our Lord's mercy that ye vouchsafe to succour them in this necessity; and, if any entry be made or should be made upon my wife's place in Norwich, that ye vouchsafe to succour my servants, and do therein after your wisdom for Christ's love and Saint Charity.

Beside this, a friend and kinsman of mine, one Robert Clement of Beetley, hath written to me that he is arrested and like to be imprisoned by a Writ of Debt, taken against him upon an obligation of an hundred pounds, in which he, and I, and others were bound to my Lord of Oxford fourteen years ago, whereof I have many acquittances. Wherefore I pray your good mastership to send to the Sheriff that my said kinsman may be eased, and no return made against him, but that he may answer the next time by attorney, for truly that Writ was taken out in the end of the term after I was arrested and after it was appeared to.

I pray your mastership for God's sake to be not displeased nor weary to do for me in these matters of your charity, for I had lever (*rather*) give the said Robert such good, little if it be, as I have, than he were undone for me, or any man else that ever did for me; and I hope, if God vouchsafe that the matter may come to reason, to save him harmless, and all other with God's mercy, ever praying you of your mastership and succour for God's love, who ever keep you for his mercy.

Written in Fleet, the Wednesday the second week of Lent.

augmentyng of my forwe I wend my wif shuld a dyed sith for
astir she was areftid she labored of hir child that she is w^t all
waityng eith'r to dye or be delyu'ed and she hath not gon viij
weks quykke what shal be falle almighty god know^t and shull
dispose m^cisfully.

Astirward my wif was sum dele easid bi the labor of the war-
deyn of Flete for the cursed Cardenale had sent hir to Newgate.
God forgif his fowle Now she is take to baile til Tuesday The
Cardenale is dede and the kyng is relevid.

^{12 by 6 1/2.}

LETTER III.

Vadat' I. P.

MOSTE cristen Kyng ryght hygh and myghty Prince
and our mooste redoubted fouu'ayn lorde We recomaunde
ws as humblye as we suffice unto your hygh excellence Where
unto please it to wete that for so moche as we hyre and understand
to our grettyst sorowe erthlye that our ennemyes of approuued
experience such as abyde and kepe theym sylf under the whyng
of your magestee Royall have throwen unto the same ryght
stedyoufely and ryght fraudulentlye manye ambyguytees and
doubtes of the fayth lygeaunce and dewtee that god knowyth
we beere unto your hyghnesse and have put them yn as grete
deuoyr

Moreover in augmenting of my sorrow, I wend my wife should have died since, for after she was arrested she laboured of her child, that she is withall, waiting either to die or be delivered, and she hath not gone eight weeks quick; what shall befall Almighty God knoweth, and shall dispose mercifully.

Afterward my wife was some deal (*somewhat*) eased by the labour of the Warden of Fleet, for the cursed Cardinal had sent her to Newgate, God forgive his soul! now she is taken to bail till Tuesday. The Cardinal is dead, and the King is relieved.

The Fleet,

Wednesday

21st of February, 1452-3.

31 H. VI.

L E T T E R XLII.

Vadatur J. P.

MOST Christian King, right high and mighty Prince, and our most redoubted Sovereign Lord, we recommend us as humbly as we suffice unto your high Excellence, where unto please it to weet that for so much as we hear and understand, to our greatest sorrow earthly, that our Enemies of approved experience, such as abide and keep themselves under the wing of your Majesty Royal, have thrown unto the same right studiously and right fraudulently many ambiguities and doubts of the faith, legiance, and duty, that, God knoweth, we bear unto your Highness, and have put them in as great devoir as they could

deuoyr as they coude to enstr'unge ws from your mooste noble
 presonce and from the favo^r of your goode gr'ce Whych goode
 gr'ce to ws ys and owe to be our sing'ler and mooste desyred Yoie
 and consolacon. We at thys tyme be comyng wyth gr'ce as your
 true and humble liege men toward your seyde hygh excellence to
 declare and shew therto at large owr sayd fayth and ligeaunce
 entending wyth the mercye of Jhu yn the seyde comyng to put
 ws yn as diligent and hertye devoyr and dewtee as onye your
 lyege men on lyve to that at may au'nce or preferre the hono^r
 and Wellfare off the sayd mageste Royalle and the seurte of the
 sayd most notable person the whych besече our blessed creature
 to prosper as grete honuo^r Yoie and felicite as eve^r had onye
 prince erthlye and to your sayd hyghnesse so to take accept and
 reputе ws and not to plese to geve trust or confidence unto the
 finistrez malicouse and fraudulent laboures and Rapportes of
 our sayd ennemyes unto our comyng to your sayd mooste noble
 p'sence Where unto we besече humblye that we may be ad-
 mitted as your liege men to thentent to shew ws the same
 wheroff yerstenday we wrote our l'res of our entent to the
 ryght Rev^{er}ent Fadre yn god the Archebyshop of Caunt'burye
 your

On the margin of this Letter towards the bottom in a hand nearly coeval with the Letter itself, is written "M^d. q^d. dict. lre dnor' direct. Archiepcō Cant. est ap^d."—The paper is then unfortunately torn off, so that what followed is missing.

Enough however remains to inform us that the Letter to the Archbishop was from the Lords—that is I presume from the Duke of York and the Lords in his party; and was, I suppose, a counterpart of what is contained in this Letter, which appears to have been a Copy of that sent to the King, and sent by some friend of J. Paston's to him, and which, by the words of the direction "Vadatur J. P." seems to have been sent to him under a solemn promise to be delivered.

As several Petitions and Remonstrances were sent from the Duke of York and his party,
 during

to enstrange us from your most noble presence, and from the favour of your good grace; which good grace to us is, and ought to be, our singular and most desired joy and consolation. We at this time be coming with grace, as your true and humble liege men, toward your said high Excellence, to declare, and shew thereto at large, our said faith and legiance, intending, with the mercy of Jesu in the said coming, to put us in as diligent and hearty devoir and duty as any your liege men alive to that at (*which*) may avance (*advance*) or prefer the honour and welfare of the said Majesty Royal, and the surety of the said most notable Person, the which (*we*) beseech our blessed Creator to prosper (*with*) as great honour, joy, and felicity as ever had any Prince earthly, and to your said Highness so to take, accept, and repute us, and not to please to give trust or confidence unto the sinister, malicious, and fraudulent, labours and reports of our said enemies unto our coming to your said most noble presence, whereunto we beseech humbly that we may be admitted as your liege men, to the intent to shew us the same, whereof yesterday we wrote our Letters of our intent, to the right reverend father in God, the Archbishop of Canterbury, your

during these civil contests, to the King, the exact date of this cannot be ascertained, though it was probably during the chancellorship of John Kemp, Archbishop of Canterbury, between the years 1452 and 1454.

The address of this Letter beginning with "Moste Cristen Kyng" is very particular, nor do I remember ever before to have seen the words "Majeste Royale," so early used in an address to the Sovereign; it is well drawn up, and the purport of it is loyal and manly; it seems too to have been sent at a time when they supposed themselves sure of assistance, if we advert to the steadiness of the concluding words,

"Whereynne we wolle perseve wyth the gr'ce of our lorde."

By sending a duplicate to the King they seemed to doubt whether or no the Archbishop would inform his highness of their Letter addressed to him as Lord Chancellor.

your Ch'uncellr of England to be shewed to your sayd hyghnesse
Whereoff forsomoch as we be not acerteined whethyr our sayd
entent be by hys Fadrehode shewed unto your seyde goode gr'ce
or not We sende thereoff unto thys closed A cōp of our said lres
of our disposicon toward your sayd hygh excellence and the
hounour and weele of the land. Whereynne we wolles persev'e
wyth the gr'ce of our lorde.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER XLIII.

To my welbelovyd Son

John Paston.

SOME I grete yow well and send you godys blyffyg and
myn and lete you wete that Rob't Hyll cam homward by
Horwelle bery and Gurney tellyd hym he had byn at london
for mony and kowd nat spedyg and behefyd Rob't that he
shuld send me mony be you I p'y for getyt not As ze com hom-
ward and speke sadly for j nothyr fermor And as for tydyngs
Phylippe Berney is passyd to God on Mūday last past wyt
y^e grettes peyn that evyr I sey man and on Tuyfday Ser

This Letter may be called a modern obituary, as it informs us of the death, and like-
wise of the manner of the death of two gentlemen of consequence in the county of
Norfolk.

Jon

Chancellor of England, to be shewed to your said Highness, whereof for so much as we be not ascertained whether our said intent be by his fatherhood shewed unto your said good grace or not; we send thereof unto this closed a Copy of our said Letters of our disposition towards your said high Excellence, and the honour and weal of the land, wherein we will persevere with the grace of our Lord.

Most probably written

between 1452 and 1454.

30 and 33 H. VI.

L E T T E R XLIII.

To my welbeloved Son John Paston.

SON I greet you well, and send you God's blessing and mine, and let you weet that Robert Hill came homeward by Orwellbury, and Gurney telled him he had been at London for money and could not speeden, and behested Robert that he should send me money by you; I pray forget it not as ye come homeward, and speak sadly (*seriously*) for another Farmer.

And as for tydings Philip^a Berney is passed to God on Monday last past with the greatest pain that ever I saw man; and on

^a Philip Berney, of Caston, Esq. was third son of John Berney, Esq. of Reedham, by Isabel, daughter of Sir John Heveningham, knight, the immediate ancestors of the present Sir John Berney, Bart. of Kirby Bedon.

Tuesday

Jon² Heny'gh'm zede to hys chyrche and herd iij massys and
cam hom Agayn nevyr meryer and seyde to hese Wyf that he
wuld go sey A lytyll devocion in hese gardeyn and than he wuld
³ dyne And forth wyth he felt a feyntyg in hese legge and fynd
don thys was at ix of y^e klok And he was ded or none myn
Cofyn Cler preyt you that ze lete no man se her letter wheche is
in felyd undir my selle I p'y you that ze wyl pay your Brothir
Will'm for iiij unc' and j half of fylke as he payd wheche he
fende me by Will'm Tavyrner and brȳg wyt you j quarter of j
unc' evyn leke of the same that j fende you clofyd in thys letter
and sey your brothyr Will'm that hese hors hath j⁴ farseyn and
grete Rennȳg forys in hese leggis God have you in kepyng
Wretyn At Norwyche on Sent Thom's evyn in grete hast.

Be your modyr,

W. Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.

² Sir John Heveningham, knight, was lineally descended from Walter Heveningham, who resided at Heveningham in Suffolk, so early as in the time of King Canute, 1017—1036. Thomas, the grandson of Sir John, settled at Ketteringham, in Norfolk, whose descendant William Heveningham of the same place, was one of the Judges of the High Court of Justice, who tried their Sovereign King Charles I. This branch of this ancient family ended in his son, who died without issue male.

W. Paston.

Tuesday Sir John ² Heveningham yede (*went*) to his church and heard three masses, and came home again never merrier, and said to his wife that he would go say a little devotion in his garden, and then he would ³ dine; and forthwith he felt a fainting in his leg and fyyd (*fit*) down; this was at nine of the clock, and he was dead ere noon.

My Cousin Clere prays you that ye let no man see her Letter, which is ensealed under my seal. I pray you that you will pay your brother William for four ounces and an half of filk as he paid, which he sent me by William Taverner, and bring with you a quarter of an ounce even like of the same that I send you closed in this Letter; and say (*tell*) your brother William that his horse hath one ⁴ farcy and great running sores in his legs. God have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, on Saint Thomas's even in great haste.

By your Mother,

⁵ AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,

Friday, 6th of July,

1453. 31 H. VI.

³ By this account it appears that the hour of dinner was between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon.

⁴ A disorder somewhat similar to the Leprosy in the human race.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 19.

LETTER XLIII.

*To my Ritht w^rchipfull
Maystr John Paston be
y^{is} delyv^yd iⁿ hast.*

RYTHT worchipfull hosbond I recōmawnd me to yow p'yig yow to wete y^t I have spoke w^t Newman for his² plase and I am thorow w^t hym y^rfor but he wold not lete it in no wyse lesse than v marc I told hym y^t sekyrly ye shuld not know but y^t I hyrid it of hym for iij li. I seyde as for y^e noble I shuld payt of myn owyn purse y^t y^e shuld no knowlech have y^rof And y^{is} day I have had jnne ij Cartfull of hey and yo^r stabyl shal be made I hope y^{is} next weke I kowd not gette no grawnt of hym to have y^e Warehows he seyth if he may in any wyse forber itt her aft^r ye shal have itt but he wull not grawnt itt in no cōvawt he hath grawntyd me y^e hows be twix y^e vowte and y^e warehows And y^t he seyde he grawntyd not yow And as for y^e Cham' y^t ye assygnyd to myn² Vnkyl god hath p'veyd for hym as hys will is he passyd to god on Monday last past at xj of y^e klok befor none And S^r John Hevenygh'm passyd to god on tewysday last past hois fowlys both god asfoyle his sekenesse toke hym on tewysday at ix of y^e Clok befor none and be
too

Though this Letter, like many others in this Collection, contains no matter of consequence, yet as it furnishes us with an instance of careful attention in the wife to her husband's affairs, and shews her anxious desire to have every thing in readiness against his expected return, I think it will be agreeable to many of my readers.

¹ Newman's Place must have been a house of some consequence in the City of Norwich

L E T T E R XLIV.

To my right worshipful Master, John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that I have spoke with Newman for his ¹ place, and I am thorough with him therefore, but he would not let it in no wise less than five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) I told him that sekerly (*certainly*) ye should not know but that I hired it of him for three pounds, I said as for the noble (6*s.* 8*d.*) I should pay of mine own purse, that ye should no knowledge have thereof; and this day I have had in two cartful of hay, and your stable shall be made I hope this next week. I could not get no grant of him to have the warehouse; he saith if he may in any wise forbear it hereafter, ye shall have it, but he will not grant it in no covenant. He hath granted me the house betwixt the vowte (*vault*) and the warehouse, and that he said he granted not you.

And as for the chamber that ye assigned to mine ² uncle, God hath purveyed (*provided*) for him as his will is; he passed to God on Monday last past, at eleven of the clock before noon, and Sir John Heveningham passed to God on Tuesday last past, whose souls both God assoil! his sickness took him on Tuesday at nine of the clock before noon, and by two afternoon he was dead.

wich at this time, as the rent, then set upon it, was equivalent to a modern one of between thirty and forty pounds a year; and there being, when she hired it, no stable ready fitted up, shews how few horses were then kept in Cities, &c.

² Philip Berney, whose death was mentioned in the preceding Letter, was brother to Margaret Maultby, the mother of Margaret Paston.

B b 2

I have

too aft^r none he was dedd I have begonne yo^r jnventar^r y^t shuld have be made or y^{is} tym if I had ben well at ease I hope to make an ende y^{of} and of oy^r thyngs boy y^{is} next weke and ben in y^t oy^r place if god send me helth I must do p^{ve}y for meche³ stuff or I come ther for y^r is noy^r bords ne oy^r stuff y^t must neds be had or we Come ther And Ric^r hath gadderid butt lytill mony fyth he come from yow I have sent Iohn Norwod y^{is} day to Gresh^m Besigh^m and matelask to gete als meche mony as he may the bliffid t^{ny}te have yow in his kep^{ig} Wr^{tyn} at Norwych on y^e ⁴ Utas day of Pet^r and Powll.

Yowrs,

⁵ M. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$.

³ This must here mean Household Stuff, and I should suppose that the boards required were those used for long Tables, Forms, &c.

LETTER XLII.

*Thys lett^r be delyverd
to Iohn Paston dwellynⁿ
jn the inder in of the
Tempyll att London in hast.*

I Grete yow well and lete yow wete that thys day I was w^t my doughtyr yor wyfe & che was in good hele att the makyn of thys lett^r thankyd be god. & sche lete yor sustyr & me wete of a lett^r

I have begun your Inventory that should have been made ere this time, if I had been well at ease; I hope to make an end thereof, and of other things both this next week, and be in that other place, if God send me health. I must do purvey for much ³ stuff ere I come there, for there is neither boards nor other stuff that must needs be had ere we come there; and Richard hath gathered but little money since he came from you. I have sent John Norwood this day to Gresham, Befingham, and Matlaske, to get as much money as he may. The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, on the ⁴ Utas day of Peter and Paul.

Yours,

⁵ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Friday, 6th of July,

1453. 31 H. VI.

⁴ The Octave, or eighth day following the festival.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

L E T T E R XLV.

This Letter be delivered to John Paston dwelling in the Inner Inn of the Temple at London, in haste.

I Greet you well and let you weet, that this day I was with my Daughter your wife, and she was in good heel (*health*) at the making of this letter, thanked be God! and she let your
Sister

lett^r wheche ye sent hyr that ye have be laboryd to for Ser Will'm Oldhall to have yo^r fustyr & desyryng in the feyd lett^r to have an Answer in schort tyme, who sche wyll be demenyd in thys mater yor suster Recomaundyng hyr to yow & thankyt yow hertyly that ye wyll remembyr hyr and lete hyr have knowleche ther of & p^ryt yow that ye wyll do yo^r dever to bryng it to a good conclusyon for sche seythe to me that sche trystyt y^e ye wyll do so that it xall be bothe for hyr worchup and p^rfyt And as for me if ye can thynke that hys lond standyt cler in as meche as I fele yo^r fustyr well wyllyd ther to I hold me weill content And as for the oblygacyon of the persen of Marlynferthe wheche I sent yow by Iohn Newman I p^ry yow lete it be fuyd And as for the parson & lyndesey they be A Cordyd and god have yow in kepyn and send yow hys blyssyn and myn Wretyn at Norwyche on Pulver Wedenesday.

Be yor moder,

Mugnes Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The exact date of this letter cannot be ascertained, it was however most probably previously to 1454, as Elizabeth Paston's brother, in his Letter to Lord Grey, tells him, "there is, and hath been divers times, late communications of marriages with divers Gentlemen not determined as yet, &c."

Sir William Oldhall was a Gentleman of large property in the County of Norfolk, and had been already married to, or afterwards did marry, Mary, daughter of William Lord Willoughby of Eresby, by whom he left an only daughter and heir, Mary. The marriage here proposed never took effect.

LECT

Sister and me weet of a letter which ye sent her, that ye have been laboured to for Sir William Oldhall to have your sister, and desiring in the said letter to have an answer in short time, how she will be demeaned in this matter.

Your Sister recommendeth her to you, and thanketh you heartily that ye will remember her, and let her have knowledge thereof, and prayeth you that ye will do your endeavour to bring it to a good conclusion, for she faith to me, that she trusteth that ye will do so, that it shall be both for her worship and profit; and, as for me, if ye can think that his Land standeth clear, in as much as I feel your Sister well willed thereto, I hold me well content.

And as for the Obligation of the Parson of Marlingford, which I sent you by John Newman, I pray you let it be sued; and as for the Parson and Lyndesey they be accorded, and God have you in his keeping, and send you his blessing and mine. Written at Norwich on Pulver-Wednesday.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,
Ashwednesday,
6 March, 1453-4.
32 H. VI.

I have dated this Letter in 1453, though doubtfully.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 19.

The Seal is octagonal, but the impression imperfect. See Letter LXXV.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

*Un to Ryth rev^{er}ent Sr and my
good Mayst^r Iohn Paston,*

RYTH wurthy and wurchypfull Sr and my ryth good mayst^r
I recomaunde me on to you thankyng you eu^{er}more of your
gret jentylnes and good mayst^rrhod shewyd on to me at all
tymys and specyally now to my herthys ease qwyche on my part
can nowt be rewardyd but my sympyll seruice is eu^{er} redy at your
comaundement ferthemor as for y^e mat^r y^t ye wete of I have la-
boryd so to my feydr y^t your entent as for y^e Jounto^r xal be ful-
fellyd And Sr I besheche you sethyn y^t I do my part to fullefelle
your wyll y^t ye wolle shew me your good mayst^rrhod in here
chambyr as my full trust js jn so moche y^t jt xall nowth hurthe
you nor non of youris And y^e p^rfite ther of xal be on to y^e
Avayle of my mayst^ress your suster and to me and to non odyr
creature And also my mayst^ress your modyr xall nouth be char-
chyd y^e w^t her bourd aftyr y^e day of y^e mariage but I to dis-
charge her of here p^rfone And to ease me y^t hat here chambyr
may be non cōtradicon And Sr I am redy & alwey wolle to
p^rforme y^t I have seyde on to you, &c. Ferthemor lykyd you to

This Letter, from a Lover to the brother of his Mist^ress, seems dictated by good sense, and a proper regard for the Lady; it shews his anxious wish that all preliminaries should be settled to the satisfaction of the Lady's friends, and hints at his own impatience for a speedy conclusion in the following expressive words, "as to my conceythe y^e dayys be waxyn wonderly longe in a schorte tyme."

On the back of the Letter is written, in an ancient hand, "A l^re somewhat touchyng a mariage y^t should have been between the wth in named John Clopton and Elizabeth Paston sole daughter to Willm Paston Justice. Sed non cep^t esse'm."

wcte

L E T T E R XLVI.

Unto (my) right reverend Sir, and my good Master, John Paston.

RIGHT worthy and worshipful Sir, and my right good master, I recommend me unto you, thanking you evermore of your great gentleness and good masterhood shewed unto me at all times, and specially now to my heart's ease, which on my part cannot be rewarded, but my simple service is ever ready at your commandment; furthermore as for the matter that ye weet of, I have laboured so to my father that your intent as for the jointure shall be fulfilled; and Sir I beseech you since I do my part to fulfil your will, that ye will shew me your good masterhood in her¹ chamber as my full trust is, insomuch that it shall nought hurt you nor none of your's, and the profit thereof shall be unto the avail of my mistress your sister, and to me, and to none other creature.

And also my mistress your mother shall not be charged with her board after the day of the marriage, but I to discharge her of her person; and to ease me that hath her chamber may be none contradiction.

And Sir I am ready, and always will to perform that I have said unto you, &c.

John Clopton, Esq. was one of those convicted on suspicion of receiving Letters from Queen Margaret with Sir Thomas Todenham, &c. before the Earl of Worcester, in Feb. 1461, when all of them, except Clopton, were beheaded. He married Alice, sister to Sir Robert Darcy, of Malden in Essex, and was alive in 1488. His father, Sir William Clopton, had estates at Long Melford, &c. in Suffolk.

¹ Perhaps it means, some Expences for the accommodation of the Bride.

wete I was a Thursday last passyd at Cavendyshe to dylyver
An astate to Wentworth in y^e londe y^t was my brothyr ² Caven-
dyche As I tolde you wan I was last w^t you and ther I spak w^t
² Crane and he be fowthe me y^t I wolde sende ov^r to my maystres
your modyr for his excuse for he myth nowth be w^t here at this
tyme but on y^e sat^rday I est^rne wyke he wolde nouth fayll to be
w^t her so he Counsellyd me y^t I and my brothyr ³ Denston xulde
mete w^t hym there and so w^toute your better avyse I and my
brothyr purpose us to be w^t you ther at y^t tyme for y^e sonner y^e
levyr me for as to my Conceythe y^e dayys be waxyn wondyrly
longe in a scorte tyme qwerfor I besheche you sende me your
auyse how ye wolde have me rewlyd, &c.

No more I wrythe to you at yis p^rsent tyme but be schechyng
you to recomaunde jn y^e lowlyest wyse and y^e t^rnite p^rserve you
body and fowle Wrety w^t my chauncery hand in ryth gret haste
on y^e Fryday be forn Palmesoneday.

Your,

⁴ John

Clopton.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

² The Cavendishes and Cranes were respectable families in the County of Suffolk.

³ John Denston, Esq. of Denston in Suffolk, married Catharine, daughter of Sir William Clopton, and sister to John Clopton.

Furthermore liketh you to weet, I was on Thursday last past at Cavendish to deliver an estate to Wentworth in the land that was my brother ² Cavendish's, as I told you when I was last with you, and there I spake with ² Crane, and he besought me that I would send over to my mistress your mother for his excuse, for he might not be with her at this time; but on the Saturday in Easter-week he will not fail to be with her, so he counselled me that I and my brother ³ Denston should meet with him there, and so without your better advice, I and my brother purpose us to be with you there at that time, for the sooner the lever (*better for*) me, for, as to my conceit the days be waxed wonderly (*wonderfully*) long in a short time, wherefore I beseech you send me your advice how ye will have me ruled, &c.

No more I write to you at this present time, but beseeching you to recommend (*me*) in the lowliest wise, and the Trinity preserve you body and soul.

Written with my chancery hand in right great haste on the Friday before Palm Sunday.

Your

⁴ JOHN CLOPTON.

Friday 12 April,
1454, 32 H. VI.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 12.

C c 2

LET.

N U M B E R XLIII.

*Maryage Artycles betwix Anneys Paston. &c. on y^e one partie and
Will^m Clopton Squyer on y^e other partie.*

THIS indenture made betwix Anneys that was y^e Wyfe of William Paston Iohn Paston hir sone and Iohn Dam on y^e one partie and Will^m Clopton Squyer on y^e other partie Witneffeth that accord is take attwyn y^e feid parties that Iohn Clopton sone and heir of y^e feid William Clopton be y^e g^{ce} of god shall wedde Elizabeth the dought' of y^e feid Anneys For which mareage the feid Anneys &c. shall paye to y^e feid Iohn Clopton CCCCth marc in hand of lawfull mony of England And ov^r that yf the feid mareage be holdyn with the feid Anneys the feid Anneys shall bere y^e costages y^of y^e day of y^e Weddyng w^t swech chaumb'yr as shall be to y^e plesir of y^e feid Anneys And y^e feid William Clopton shall do his fessees make a lawfull estate to y^e feid Will^m of londs ten'tz rentz and fvysez to y^e yerly value of xL l. ov^r all chargez born to have and to hold to hym t^{me} of his lyfe w^toutyn empechement of Wast the remaindr y^of to y^e feid Iohn and Elizabeth and to his heirs male of hir body lawfully begotyn w^toute empechemēt of Wast w^{ynne} xij dayes aft^r y^e feid Weddyng And ov^r that withynne y^e feid xij dayes the

On the back of the above Indenture in a more modern hand is written, "The mariage w^{hyn} mentioned never toke effect for the same Elizabeth was after first maryed to Robt Ponynge arm, and then to S^r George Browne knyght." I thought this Draught of a Marriage Settlement too curious to be omitted, particularly as I have been requested by some Persons of considerable eminence in the law to publish every circumstance that might throw light upon legal Forms, or upon the legal Transactions of the times here treated of.

feid

N U M B E R XLVII.

Marriage Articles betwixt Agnes Paston, &c. on the one part and William Clopton, Esq. on the other part.

THIS Indenture, made betwixt Agnes that was the wife of William Paston, John Paston her son, and ¹ John Damme on the one part, and William ² Clopton, Esquire, on the other part, Witnesseth that accord is taken atwyn (*between*) the said parties, that John Clopton, son and heir of the said William Clopton, by the grace of God shall wed Elizabeth the daughter of the said Agnes, for which marriage the said Agnes, &c. shall pay to the said John Clopton 400 marks (266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) in hand of lawful money of England, and over that (*besides*) if the said marriage be holden with the said Agnes, the said Agnes shall bear the costages thereof the day of the wedding, with such ³ chambering as shall be to the pleasure of the said Agnes; And the said William Clopton shall do (*take care that*) his Foeffees make a lawful estate to the said William of lands, tenements, renis, and services to the yearly value of 40*l.* over all charges borne, to have and hold to him (*for the*) term of his life without impeachment of waste, the remainder thereof to the said John and Elizabeth, and to his heirs male of her body lawfully begotten, without impeachment of waste, within twelve days after the said wedding.

And over that within the said twelve days the said John shall

¹ John Damme was a Burgefs in Parliament for the City of Norwich, and likewise Recorder.

² The Cloptons were a family of consequence.

³ This word is here used in a good sense, and probably means joyous entertainment and feasting—but it may mean certain expences to be borne, or Goods, &c. to be bought on this occasion.

seid Iohn shall do lawfull estate to be made to y^e seid William of londs ten'tz rentz and f'vysez to y^e yerly value of xL m'rc ov^r all charges born to have and hold to y^e seid William t'me of his lyfe w^toute empechement of Wast the remayndre therof to y^e seid Elizabeth to have and hold to hir t'me of hir lyfe w^toute empechement of Wast Also it is accorded that y^e seid William shall make estate of all y^e residue of his londs which he is sefid of or any other man to his use to swech p'sonys as the seid Iohn shall name to y^e use of y^e seid Iohn Also the seid Iohn Clopton shall do lawfull estate to be made to y^e seid Elizabeth of londs tentz rentz and f'oysez to y^e yerly value of xxx li. ov^r all chargez born to have and hold to hir duryng y^e lyfe of the seid William And moreov^r the seid Iohn p'mytteth and ensureth be y^e feith of his body that he shall leve ov^r the xL li. worth lond abovefeid to his heirs and issue male of y^e body of y^e seid Elizabeth begotyn londes in fee symple or in taill to y^e yerly value of xL m'rc in * cas y^e fame issue male be gov'nyd to the seid Iohn as the sone oweth to be to the fadir And &c.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Paper Mark

a Snake

Pl. xxii. N^o 11.

* The concluding part of the Settlement ought not to escape our observation, where the 40 Marks per annum settled on the issue male is to depend upon the good behaviour of such issue to the father.

do (*cause*) lawful estate to be made to the said William of lands, tenements, rents, and services to the yearly value of 40 marks (26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) over all charges borne to have and hold to the said William (*for*) term of his life, without impeachment of waste, the remainder thereof to the said Elizabeth to have and hold to her (*for*) term of her life, without impeachment of waste.

Also it is accorded that the said William shall make estate of all the residue of his lands which he is seized of, or any other man to his use to such persons as the said John shall name, to the use of the said John.

Also the said John Clopton shall do (*cause*) lawful estate to be made to the said Elizabeth of lands, tenements, rents, and services to the yearly value of 30*l.* over all charges borne, to have and hold to her during the life of the said William.

And moreover the said John promytteth (*promiseth*) and en-
sureth by the faith of his body that he shall leave, over the 40*l.*
worth (*of*) land abovesaid, to his heirs and issue male of the
body of the said Elizabeth begotten, lands in fee simple or in
tail to the yearly value of 40 marks (26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) in ⁴ case the
same male issue be governed to the said John as the son oweth
to be to the father. And, &c.

About
1454. 32 H. VI.

LET-

LETTER XLVII.

*To my right and welbeloved
frend Iohn Paston Squier.*

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved frend I grete you wel And for as mych as I have understande y^e ze have do take a distresse of c'tayn bestes upon c'tayn land which I stande infeffed in in y^e town of Pgrave for what cause I knowe not wherfor I pray you yat ze wyll make deliv'ance ageyn of the said bestes and if any thing ze can axe be dute of right fetteth a day and lete yo^r. evydences and right be shewed and I shall assigne conceill of myn to be y^e to se it and all yat reson or lawe wyll I wyll be right glad ze have and otherwise I trowe ze wold not desire And if ze wyll do this I wyll be wel paied and elles ze constreyn me to po'veye other wise as lawe may gyde me oure lord have you in gov'nance written at Walsyngh'm the xvij day of May.

Yours frend,

The Lord Scales.

The Contents of this Letter shew my Lord Scales to be a Gentleman, and a man of honour, it betrays nothing of the tyranny of an ancient Baron, but breathes the sentiments of a friend. At the bottom, in a hand of the time, is written, "Li't. āā mīch. xxxij^o." So that it fixes it to the 33d of Henry VI.

LET

L E T T E R XLVIII.

To my right and well beloved Friend, John Paston, Esq.

RIGHT trusty and well beloved friend, I greet you well, and for as much as I have understood that ye have do take (*caused to be taken*) a Distress of certain beasts upon certain land, which I stand infeoffed in, in the town of ¹ Palgrave, for what cause I know not; wherefore I pray you that ye will make deliverance again of the said beasts, and if any thing ye can ask be (*a*) duty of right, set a day, and let your Evidences and right be shewed, and I shall assign Counsel of mine to be there to see it; and all that reason or law will, I will be right glad ye have; and otherwise, I trow, ye would not desire; and if ye will do this, I will be well paid (*satisfied*); and else (*or*) ye will constrain me to purvey otherwise, as law may guide me. Our Lord have you in governance. Written at Walsingham, the 17th day of May.

Your Friend,

The LORD ² SCALES.

Walsingham,
Friday, 17 May,
1454. 32 H. VI.

¹ Palgrave by Swaffham, where J. Paston had a manor.

² Thomas Lord Scales, whose daughter and heir afterwards married Sir Anthony Widville.—The Letter is written by his Secretary.

Autograph. Pl. I. N^o 12.

L E T T E R XLII.

To John Paston be yis

lett^r delyv^d.

SOON I grete zow wel w^t goddys blyssyng and myn and I latte zow wette y^t my Cofyn Cler wrytted to me y^t sche spake w^t Schrowpe aftyr y^t he had byen w^t me at Norwyche and tolde her what cher y^t I had made hym and he seyde to her he lyked wel by y^c cher y^t I made hym he had swyche wordys to my Cofyn Cler y^t lesse yan ze made hym good cher and zaf hym wordys of conforth at london he wolde no mor speke of ye matyr my Cofyn Cler thynkyth y^t it wer a foly to forsake hym lesse yan ze knew of on owdyr as good or better and I haue assayed zowr suster and I fonde her neu^r so wylly to noon as sche is to hym zyf it be so y^t his londe stande cleer. I sent zow a lett^r by Brawnton for sylke and for yis matyr befor my Cofyn Cler wrote to me ye qwyche was wrytten on ye Wednyfday nexzt aftyr mydsomer day. S^r Harry ynglows is ryzth besy a bowt Schrowpe for on of his dozther's. I prey zow for zette nozth to brynge me my mony fro Horwelbery as ze com fro London edyr all or a grete parte ye dew dette was at Crystemesse last paste no thyng a lowyd vij li. xiiij^s viij^d and at yis mydsomer it is v li. mor and

thow

We find about this time several alliances proposed to the family for their daughter Elizabeth, none of which as yet took place. This of Scroope seems to have been approved not only by the young Lady herself, but likewise by her mother and friends, though

L E T T E R XLIX.

To John Paston be this Letter delivered.

SON, I greet you well, with God's blessing and mine, and I let you weet that my Cousin Clere writted (*wrote*) to me that she spake with Scroope after that he had been with me at Norwich, and told her what cheer that I had made him; and he said to her he liked well by the cheer that I made him.

He had such words to my Cousin Clere, that, less than (*unless*) ye made him good cheer and gave him words of comfort at London, he would no more speak of the matter.

My Cousin Clere thinketh that it were a folly to forsake him less than ye know of one other as good or better; and I have assayed your Sister, and I found her never so willing to none as she is to him: if it be so that his land stand clear.

I sent you a Letter by Brawnton for filk, and for this matter before my Cousin Clere wrote to me, the which was written on the Wednesday next after Midsummer day.

Sir Harry Inglose is right busy about Scroope for one of his daughters.

I pray you forget not to bring me my money from Horwelly, as ye come from London, either all or a great part; the due debt was at Christmas last past, nothing allowed, 7*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* and at this Midsummer it is 5*l.* more; and though I allow him

conditionally that a better could not be obtained. She afterwards married Robert Poynings, &c.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 19.

thow j a low hym all his askyng it is but xxvj^s vj^d lesse but I
am nozth so avyfyth zytt as for ye frer he hath byen at sent
benetts and at Norwyche and made grete bowfte of ye sewte y^t
he hath azens me and bowzthe many boxes to what jntent J
wett neu^r it is wel doen to be war at london in drede gyf he
bryng ony fyse at sent Margarets tyme. I kan no mor but
almyzty god be owr good lorde who have zow eu^r in kepyng.
Wryten at Oxnade in grete hast on ye satyr next after myd-
fomer.

By yowr modyr,

A. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xxii. N^o 15.

L E T T E R L.

To my Cofyn Iohn

Paston be thys letter

delyv'ed.

TRUSTY and weel be-loved Cofyn I comaunde me to
zow defyryng to here of zowre weelfare and good spede
in zowre matere ye qwech I prey god send zow to his plesaunce
and

all his asking, it is but 1*l*. 6*s*. 6*d*. less, but I am not so advised yet. As for the Friar he hath been at Saint Benet's, and at Norwich, and made great boast of the suit that he hath against me, and bought many boxes, to what intent I weet never; it is well done to beware at London, in dread if he bring any fyse (*writ of Affise*) at Saint Margaret's (20*th* July) time.

I can no more, but Almighty God be our good Lord, who have you ever in keeping. Written at Oxnead in great haste, on the Saturday next after Midsummer.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Oxnead,

Saturday, 29*th* of June,

1454. 32 H. VI.

L E T T E R L.

To my Cousin John Paston be this Letter delivered.

TRUSTY and well beloved Cousin, I commend me to you, desiring to hear of your welfare and good speed in your matters, the which I pray God send you to his plesauce (*pleasure*) and to your heart's ease.

Cousin,

and to zoure hertys ease Cofyn I lete zow wete y^t Scrope hath be in this Cuntre to se my Cofyn zoure sustyr and he hath spoken w^t my Cofyn zoure moder and sche desyreth of hym y^t he schuld schewe zow ye endentures mad be twen ye knyght y^t hath his dowter and hym whethir y^t Skrop if he were maried and fortunied to have children if tho childern schuld enheryte his lond or his dowl^r. ye wheche is maried Cofyn for yis cause take gode hede to his endentures for he is glad to schewe zow hem or whom ze wol a fygne w^t zow and he seith to me he is ye last in ye tayle of his lyfode ye qweche is CCCL marke and better as Watkyn Shipd'm seith for he hath take a compt of his lifode dyv's tymes and Scrop seith to me if he be maried and have a sone an eyre his dowl^r. yat is maried schal have of his lifode L marke and no more and y'fore Cofyn me semeth he were good for my Cofyn zowre sustyr w^t yat ye myght gete her a bettyr and if ze can gete a bett^r. I wold avyse zow to labo^r. it in as schort tyme as ze may goodly for sche was nev^r. in so gret sorow as sche is now a dayes for sche may not speke wt. no man ho so ev^r. come ne not may se ne speke w^t. my man ne w^t. f'vauntes of hir moderys but y^t. sche bereth hire an hand oy'wyse yan

In several Letters we have seen Agnes Paston in the character of an active woman, attentive to her children, and her own private affairs, but in this she appears to no great advantage as a mother, her treatment of a daughter, now a woman, seems harsh and unseemly, even for the age in which it happened, though then the parental authority was carried to very different lengths to what it is in these days.

We have before seen in the Articles under which the Earl of Warwick took charge of the King's person, that he required, and had granted, a power to chastise his royal pupil.

This same Lady in her directions to Master Greenfield (in Letter XXXV. Vol. i. p. 143.) prays him to belash her Son Clement well, "if he hath not done well, nor will not amend."

Cousin, I let you weet that ¹ Scroope hath been in this Country to see my Cousin your Sister, and he hath spoken with my Cousin your Mother, and she desireth of him that he should shew you the Indentures made between the Knight that hath his Daughter and him, whether that Scroope, if he were married and fortun'd to have children, if those children should inherit his land, or his Daughter, the which is married.

Cousin, for this cause take good heed to his Indentures, for he is glad to shew you them, or whom ye will assign with you; and he saith to me he is the last in the tayle (*entail*) of his livelihood, the which is 350 marks (233*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and better, as Watkin Shipdham saith, for he hath taken a compt (*an account*) of his livelihood divers times; and Scroope saith to me if he be married and have a Son, an heir, his Daughter that is married shall have of his livelihood 50 marks (33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and no more; and therefore Cousin me seemeth he were good for my Cousin your Sister with that (*without that*) ye might get her a better; and if ye can get a better I would advise you to labour it in as short time as ye may goodly, for she was never in so great sorrow as she is now a days, for she may not speak with no man, whosoever come, ne not (*neither*) may see nor speak with my man, nor with servants of her Mother's, but that she beareth

These manners of the age therefore being considered, we shall be the less surpris'd at this now seemingly severe behaviour towards her Daughter. Elizabeth Clere's reflections upon it do her credit, and assure us that she thought the young Lady's treatment from her Mother very improper, as tending to force her into measures which might occasion much uneasiness to her family and friends.

¹ There was a noble family of this name at this time, but whether the gentleman here mentioned was a branch of it or not, does not appear. He was probably the son of Millicent, the wife of Sir John Fastolf.

her

she menyth, and sche hath sen Esterne y^e most p^r. be betyn
 onys in y^e weke or twyes and som tyme twyes on o day and hir
 hed broken in to or thre places.—whefor Cofyn sche hath sent
 to me be frere Newton in gret Counsell and preyeth me y^t. I
 wold send to zow a lett^r. of hir hevynes and prey yow to be
 hir good brothyr as hir trost is in zow and sche seith if ze may
 se be his evydences y^t. his childern and hire may enherytten and
 sche to have resonable joynture sche hath herd so mech of his
 birth and his condicons y^t. and ze will sche will have hym
 whethyr y^t. hir moder wil or wil not, not w^tstandyng it is tolde
 hir his p^rson is fymple for sche seyth men shull have ye more
 deyute of hire if sche rewle hire to hym as sche awte to do Cofyn
 it is told me y^r is a goodly man in yowre jnne of ye qweche ye
 fadyr deyed litte and if ze thynk y^t. he were better for hir yan
 Scroop it wold be laboured and yif Scroop a goodly answere y^e
 he be not put of tyl ze be sure of a bettyr for he seid whan he
 was w^t. me but if he have som Counfortable answer of zow he
 wil no more laboure in this mater be cause he myght not se my
 Cofyn zoure Sustyr and he seyth he myght a fee hire and sche
 had be bettyr yan she is and y^t. causeth hym to demyr y^t. hir
 moder was not weel willyng and so have J sent my Cofyn zowre
 moder word Wherefore Cofyn thynk on this mateer for sorow
 oftyn tyme causeth women to be set hem oy'wyse yan yei schuld
 do and if sche where in yat case j wot weel ze wold be sory
 Cofyn I prey zow brenne yis letter y^t. zoure men ne non oy'
 man se it for and my Cofyn zowre moder knew y^t j had sent
 yow

her an hand otherwise than she meaneth ; and she hath since Easter the most part been beaten once in the week or twice, and sometimes twice on a day, and her head broken in two or three places. Wherefore, Cousin, she hath sent to me by Fryar Newton in great counsel, and prayeth me that I would send to you a Letter of her heaviness, and pray you to be her good brother, as her trust is in you ; and she saith if ye may see by his Evidences that his children and hers may inherit, and she to have reasonable jointure, she hath heard so much of his birth and his conditions, that and (*if*) ye will she will have him, whether that her mother will or will not, notwithstanding it is told her (*that*) his person is simple (*plain*), for she saith men shall have the more dainty of her, if she rule her to him as she ought to do.

Cousin, it is told me there is a goodly man in your Inn, of the which the father died lately, and if ye think that he were better for her than Scroope, it would be laboured, and give Scroope a goodly answer, that he be not put off till ye be sure of a better ; for he said when he was with me but if (*unless*) he have some comfortable answer of you, he will no more labour in this matter, because he might not see my Cousin your Sister, and he saith he might have seen her and (*if*) she had been better than she is ; and that causeth him to deem that her mother was not well willing ; and so have I sent my Cousin your mother word ; wherefore, Cousin, think on this matter, for sorrow often time causeth women to beset them otherwise than they should do, and if she were in that case, I wot well ye would be sorry : Cousin, I pray you burn this Letter, that your men nor none other men see it ; for and (*if*) my Cousin your Mother knew

yow yis letter sche schuld nev^r love me No more j wrighte to
zow at yis tyme but holy goft have zow in kepyng Wretyn in
haft on Seynt Peterys day be candel lyght.

Be youre Cosyn,

² Elizabeth Clere.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 10 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Maak,

Part of a Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.

² Elizabeth Clere was the daughter and heir of Thomas Uvedale, Esq. of Tacol-
neston, in Norfolk, and now the widow of Robert Clere, of Ormesby, Esq. She died
in 1492.

LETTER II.

*Un to my Ryght
worshypfull Mastyr
Paston be thys byll
delyv'ryd in haste.*

RYGH T trusty and well belovyd Mast^r. I recomāde me
un to yow desyr̄g to her of yo^r good p'sp'ite and well-
far and as towchyng for Ser Phylp ¹ Wentforde he rood on to

The Ward here mentioned I should suppose was Thomas Fastolf of Ipswich, of whom
Sir John Fastolf (in his Letter to J. Paston, dated 11th of November 1454) so much
wished to have obtained the guardianship. This transaction might have happened pre-
viously to Sir John's Letter in June 1454, or in the December following in the same
year, as Saint John Baptist's day is in the former, St. John Evangelist's day in the latter
month, but the exact date is immaterial.

The Letter presents us with a curious instance of the methods used to obtain and se-
cure the persons of minors, and shews us the warlike manner in which those travelled,
who supposed they should meet with any resistance.

london

that I had sent you this Letter, she should never love me. No more I write to you at this time, but Holy Ghost have you in keeping. Written in haste, on Saint Peter's day, by candle light.

By your Cousin,

ELIZABETH CLERE.

St. Peter's Day,
Saturday 29th of June,
1454. 32 H. VI.

Autograph. Pl. xix. No 14.

L E T T E R L I.

*Unto my right worshipful Master Paston, be this bill
delivered in haste.*

RIGHT trusty and well beloved Master, I recommend me unto you, desiring to hear of your good prosperity and welfare; and as touching for Sir Philip¹ Wentford, he rode

The taking of a Child like the Ward with them, when most probably the real Ward was conveyed another way, was an ingenious artifice to deceive those who might lay in wait to attack them, and endeavour to get possession of his person.

¹ Though this name is here written Wentford, I rather believe it means Sir Philip Wentworth, of Nettlested, in Suffolk, who married Mary, the daughter of Lord Clifford.

london ward up on Seynt Ion ys day and on the evy' afor he
 sent to my Mast^r. for to have sum of hys me' for to ryd w^t.
 hym to Colchest^r. and for be cawse he shulde not have no suspe-
 sion to me j rod myself and a felaw w^t. me and he rood with an
 C. hors w^t. ² jakks and ³ saletts and rusty ⁴ habyrjons and ther
 rood w^t. hym Gyboun of Debnē' and Tympyrle and all the ffe-
 lashyp y^t. yey coud make and Gyboun seyde y^t. he wolde endyte
 as many as he cowde und'stonde y^t. wer of y^e tod^r. p^ty and
 longe Bernard was yer also and he mad Ser Phylp Wentforde
 to torne agey' and maad ev'y me' to beende her bowys and lyth
 down of her hors for to wyte and ony ma' wolde come ageynstē
 and he seyde how he shulde not let hys wey nor for Ser John
 Fastolf nor for Paston nor for noon of hem all and as for y^e
 ward he was not y^r but y^r was had anod^r. Chyld lyk hym and
 he rood next hym and wha' y^t. he was ij myle be zonde Col-
 chest^r. he sent hym hoom agey' with a cer tey meyny and Ser
 Phylp Wentforde and Gyboun of Debnē' and Tymp'le and
 Bernard they took a ma' of Stratford a Sowt' and hys name ys
 p'soun and yey enqueryd hym of ev'ry manys name of the
 tod^r. p^ty and he tolde hem as many as he cowde and yey bad
 hy' enquer fery' for to knowe all for yey desyryd of hym for to
 enquer as fer as he cowde and he shulde have well for hys labor
 No mor to yow at thys tyme but y^e holy goft have yow in
 hys kepyng Wretyn at Hadley y^e Sat'day aft^r. Seynt John ys

² The Jack or Jacket, was a military vestment, calculated for the defence of the body, composed of linen stuffed with cotton, wool, or hair quilted, and commonly covered with leather.

³ A Salet was a light Helmet of various construction.

unto London ward upon Saint John's day, and on the evening afore he sent to my Master for to have some of his men for to ride with him to Colchester, and for because he should not have no suspicion to me, I rode myself and a fellow with me; and he rode with an hundred horse with ² Jackets and ³ Salets, and rusty ⁴ Haubergeons; and there rode with him Guybon of Debenham, and Timperley, and all the fellowship that they could make; and Guybon said that he would indict as many as he could understand that were of the other party; and long Bernard was there also, and he made Sir Philip Wentford to turn again, and made every man to bend their bows and alight down off their horse, for to weet and (*if*) any man would come against them; and he said how he should not let his way neither for Sir John Fastolf nor for Paston, nor for none of them all.

And as for the Ward he was not there, but there was had another Child like him, and he rode next him, and when that he was two miles beyond Colchester, he sent him home again with a certain meny (*fellowship*); and Sir Philip Wentford, and Guybon of Debenham, and Timperley, and Bernard, they took a man of Stratford, a Sowter (*a shoemaker*), and his name is Pearson, and they enquired (*of*) him of every man's name of the other party; and he told them as many as he could; and they bad him enquire further for to know all; for they desired of him for to enquire as far as he could, and he should have well for his labour. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Ghost have you in his keeping. Written at Hadley, the Saturday

⁴ The Haubergeon was a coat composed either of plate or chain-mail without sleeves. For a fuller account, and view of these the Reader is referred to Mr. Grose's accurate "Treatise on Ancient Armour and Weapons," quarto, 1785.

after

day and I beseeche yow hertyly recoma'de me to my Mast^r.
Alblast.

By yo^r man,

^s R. Dollay.

12 by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Seal on a heater shield,

A Cheveron between

three roundles.

Pl. xxiii. N^o 9.

^s R. Dollay seems to have been a servant belonging to some one of the party opposite to J. Paston, in J. Paston's interest.

Autograph. Pl. xix. N^o 15.

LETTER LIII.

To my trusty and wele beloved

John Paston Squyer be this

I're deliv'ed.

TRUSTY and welebelovid frend y comaund me to zow
certifying zow y^t. and zo^r Sustyr be not zit maried y trust
to god y know y^t. where she may be maried to a gentylman of
iij C. m^{re} of lyvelod ye which is a grete gentylman born and
of gode blode and yf ze yink y^t. y shall labore ony ferder y'ynne
y p'y zow send me word by ye bringer of ys I're for y have
spoke w^t. ye p'ties and yey have granted me y^t. yey wolle p'cede
no ferder y'ynne tyll y speke w^t. hem azen And y'fore y p'y
zow

after Saint John's day, and I beseech you heartily recommend me to my Master Alblaster.

By your man,

^s R. DOLLAY.

Hadley, in Suffolk,
Saturday 29th of June,
or 28th of December 1454.
32 or 33 H. VI.

I rather think this Letter was written in December, as the Saturday was the day after St. John the Evangelist.

L E T T E R LII.

*To my trusty and well beloved John Paston, Esquire, be this
Letter delivered.*

TRUSTY and well beloved Friend, I commend me to you, certifying you that and (if) your Sister be not yet married, I trust to God I know that where she may be married to a gentleman of 300 marks (200^l.) of livelihood, the which is a great gentleman born, and of good blood, and if ye think that I shall labour any farther therein, I pray you send me word by the bringer of this Letter, for I have spoken with the parties, and they have granted me that they will proceed no farther therein till I speak with them again, and therefore I pray you
send

zow fend me word in haft how y^e ze wylle be desposed y'ynne
and god have zow in hys kepyng wettin at Amphill ye xj day
of July last past.

By Edmond Grey, lord of Hastinges,
Waifford, & of Ruthyn.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Edmund succeeded his grandfather, Reginald Lord Grey, of Ruthyn, in 1441. In 1464 he was appointed Lord Treasurer to Edward IV. and the next year created Earl of Kent. He died in 1489. The barony of Ruthyn is now in the Earl of Suffex.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 13.

These Letters discover to us the great attention paid by families to the proper disposition of the female branches in suitable and advantageous marriages.

LETTER LIII.

Dñs de Grey.

RIGHT worshipfull and my ryght gode lord j recomand
me to yowr gode lordship and where as it pleasyd yowr
lordship to dyrecte yowr letter to me for amaryage for my por
lust. to a jantylman of yowr knowleth of CCC marc lyflod in
cas she wer not maryd wherfor j am gretely bownd to do yo^r
lordship servyse forsoye my lord she is not maryd ne jnsurid

send me word in haste how that ye will be disposed therein,
and God have you in his keeping. Written at Ampthill, the
11th day of July last past.

By EDMOND GREY, LORD of HASTYNGS,
WAIFFORD, and RUTHYN.

Ampthill,
Thursday, 11th of July,
1454. 32 H. VI.

Pl. xiv. N° 8.

N. B. At the bottom of this Letter in the hand-writing of John Paston, is the following memorandum,

“Lib^{at}. p^r. Will^l. Aleyn Valett^l. dēi dēi xiiij die Julij A^o. xxxij^o. H. VI.”

Seal of red wax, the impressiō defaced, but it has a neat braid of straw round it.

Pl. xxiii. N° 6.

L E T T E R LIII.

The Lord Grey.

RIGHT worshipful and my right good Lord, I recommend me to your good Lordship, and whereas it pleased your Lordship to direct your Letter to me for a marriage for my poor Sister to a gentleman of your knowledge of 300 marks (200*l*.) livelihood, in case she were not married; wherefore I am greatly bound to do your lordship service; for sooth my Lord she is not married, nor insured to no man; there is and

VOL. III.

F f

hath

to noman ther is and hath be dyvers tymys and late comu-
 nycacon of feche maryags wyth dy'vs jantylmen not det'mynyd
 as yett And whedder the jantylman yat yowr lordchip menith
 of be on of hem or nay j dowth And wher as yo^r. feyd letter
 specyfyith that j shuld send yow word whedder j thowght ye
 shuld labo^r. ferther in the mater or nay jn that my lord I dare
 not preswme to wryte so to yow wythowte j knew the Gentyll-
 mans name notwythstandyng my lord j shall take uppe on me
 wyth the avyse of other of here frendys that she shall nother be
 maryd ner infwryd to no creatur ne forther p'fede in no feche
 mater befor the fest of the Assup'con of owr lady next comyng
 dwrȳg whyche tyme yowr lordship may send me if itt please
 yow certeyn informac'on of the feyd Gentyllmanys name and of
 the place and contrey wher hys lyfflod lyth and whedder he
 hath any chylder and after j shall demene me in the mater as
 yowr lordship shall be pleasyd For in gode feyth my lord it
 were to me grette joy that my feyd pore suster were acordig to
 hier pore degre marijd be yowr Avyse trustyng thanne that ye
 wold be here gode lord Ryght wurchipfull and my Ryght gode
 Lord j beseche Almyghty God to have yow in his kepȳg wrete
 att Norwych the xv day of jull.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 5.

¶ C C =

The above is transcribed from a Copy of the Original Letter (in J. Paston's own hand) which he had sent to Lord Grey; it was preserved with the preceding one of his lordship to J. Paston. He shews himself in this Letter not only a kind brother, but one who was attentive to his Sister's welfare, for though this alliance came recommended by a nobleman, who assured him that the gentleman proposed was not only well

hath been, divers times and late, communication of such marriages with divers gentlemen not determined as yet, and whether the gentleman that your Lordship meaneth of be one of them or nay I doubt; and whereas your said Letter specifieth that I should send you word whether I thought you should labour farther in the matter or nay; in that my Lord I dare not presume to write so to you without I knew the gentleman's name; notwithstanding, my Lord, I shall take upon me with the advice of other of her friends, that she shall neither be married nor insured to no creature, nor farther proceed in no such matter before the feast of the Assumption of our Lady (*15th of August*) next coming, during which time your Lordship may send me, if it please you, certain information of the said gentleman's name, and of the place and country where his livelihood lieth, and whether he hath any children; and after I shall demean me in the matter as your Lordship shall be pleased; for in good faith, my Lord, it were to me great joy that my said poor sister were, according to her poor degree, married by your advice, trusting then that ye would be her good Lord.

Right worshipful and my right good Lord I beseech Almighty God to have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, the 15th day of July.

Norwich,

Monday, 15th of July,

1454. 32 H. VI.

well born, but had an handsome livelihood, yet he would give no positive answer till he knew for whom the application was made, and in what County his Estate was situated.

This Letter being only a Copy, has no concluding Subscription.

LETTER LIII.

To my rith wurchipfull

brodr. jon. Paston be y^r.

delyv'yd.

RYTH wurchyfull brodr. I r'comande me to zow desiryng to her of zowr Willefar ' Byllyng y^e S'iant hathe byn in his Contr' And he come to lundon ys weke he sent for me and ast me how j far'd j tolde hym her is pestelens And sayd j fard y^e bettr. he was in good hele for it was noysyd y^t he was ded a toke me to him and ast how my sust^r. dede and j answeyrd wyll nev^r. bettr. he seyde he was w^t. the lord Gray And they talkyd of j jantilmā qweche is Ward to my lord j r'me'b^r. he sayd it was Harry Gray that thei talkyd of. And my lord sayd I was besy w^t. jn ys fewe days to a maryd hym to a jantyllwomā jn Norfolk that schall have iiij C. marc' to hyr mariage And now a wyll not be me for iiij C marc' wulde do me hese And now he wulde have his mariage mony hysself And ther'for' quoth he he schall mary hym self for me y^{is}. wurdz had my lorde to Byllyng as he tollde me he und'stod y^t my lord laboryd for his owne a vayle And c'saylyd to byd her be wyfe And j thankeyd hym for hys good c'sayll I sent zow an answer of zowr lett^r. of

S^r.

By the conversation that had passed between my Lord Grey and Billing, we find that his Lordship had his own interest in view in the match he had proposed to John Paston for his Sister, but on finding that his Ward was not willing to give up to him the Lady's fortune,

L E T T E R LIV.

To my right worshipful brother John Paston, be this delivered.

RIGHT worshipful brother I recommend me to you, desiring to hear of your welfare. ¹ Billing the Serjeant hath been in his Country, and he came to London this week; he sent for me and asked me how I fared; I told him here is Pestilence; and said I fared the better (*that*) he was in good hele (*health*) for it was noised that he was dead; a toke (*he took*) me to him, and asked how my Sister did, and I answered well, never better; he said he was with the Lord Grey, and they talked of a gentleman which is Ward to my Lord, I remember he said it was Harry Grey that they talked of; and my Lord said, "I was busy within this few days to amaryd (*have married*) him to a gentlewoman in Norfolk, that shall have 400 marks (266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) to her marriage, and now he will not be (*q?* buy) me, for 400 marks would do me ease, and now he would have his marriage money himself, and therefore, quoth he, he shall marry himself for me."

These words had my Lord to Billing, as he told me, he understood that my Lord laboured for his own avail; and counselled to bid her be wise; and I thanked him for his good counsel.

I sent you an answer of your Letter of Sir John Fastolf's

fortune, he would proceed no farther in the proposal. Some part of this account however appears obscure.

¹ Thomas Billing was made a Serjeant in 1453, and about 1469 was appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

coming

Sr. jon Fastolf comyng hom as he told me hem self nev^rthe lesse he bode longer than he sayd hymself he schull a do he tolde me he schulde make j ende be twix ² Skroop and my Sust^r. wulle he is in Norfolke many wulde it schulde not p've for thei say it is an onlykkely mariage jn casse ³ Cressen^r be talkyd of ony mor he is countyd a jantyllma'ly ma' and a wurshepfull ze knowe he is most wurchipfull bett^r. than I at the r'v'ens of good drawe to fume c'clufyn it is time my lord ⁴ Chanfeler come not her sone I come to lu'd n ney^r my Lord of ⁵ Yorke my lord of ⁶ Canterbury hathe rec^d. hys crosse And j was w^t. hym in the kynggs Cham^r. qwan he mad hys homage j tolde Harry Wylton y^e ⁷ deme-ny'g betwix the kyng and hym it war to long to wrythe as for the prift y^t dede areste me I can not und'stand y^t it is y^e pryfte y^t ze mene her is gret ⁸ pestelens I purpose to fle in to the Contr' my lord of ⁹ Oxforthe is come azen fro the Se And he hath geth hym lytyll thank in this Countr' much more thyng j wulde wrythe to zow but I lak lyfor' Harry Wylton sey the kyng my lord of ¹⁰ Ely hathe do hys fewthe god have zow in

² Scroope was a widower, and most probably much older than the Lady, and therefore it is spoken of as an unlikely (*disproportioned*) marriage. He was the Son-in-law of Sir John Fastolf.

³ Who Cressener was I cannot discover.

⁴ Richard Nevil, Earl of Salisbury, was appointed Chancellor in April 1454.

⁵ This must be either Richard Plantagenet Duke of York; or William Booth, who was translated to the province of York in 1452, from Coventry and Litchfield.

⁶ Thomas Bouchier was elected by the Convent to the Archiepiscopal See of Canterbury in April 1454, from the See of Ely. He lived fifty-one years after his first consecration, dying in 1486, after he had been Archbishop thirty-two years. No Englishman ever continued so long a Bishop, nor has any Archbishop either before or since his time enjoyed this dignity so many years.

hys

coming home as he told me himself, nevertheless he bode (*staid*) longer than he said himself he should a do (*have done*).

He told me he should make an end betwixt ² Scroop and my Sister while he is in Norfolk; many would it should not prove, for they say it is an unlikely marriage.

In case ³ Cressener be talked of any more, he is counted a gentlemanly man and a worshipful, ye know who is most worshipful better than I; at the reverence of God draw to some conclusion, it is time.

My Lord ⁴ Chancellor come not here, since I came to London, neither my Lord of ⁵ York.

My Lord of ⁶ Canterbury hath received his Cross, and I was with him in the King's Chamber when he made his homage; I told Harry Wilton the ⁷ demeaning betwixt the King and him, it were too long to write.

As for the Priest that did arrest me, I cannot understand that it is the Priest that ye mean.

Here is great ⁸ Pestilence, I purpose to flee into the Country. My Lord of ⁹ Oxford is come again fro the sea, and he hath gotten him little thank in this country; much more thing I would write to you, but I lack leisure.

Harry Wilton saw the King. My Lord of ¹⁰ Ely hath done his fewthe (*faith or fealty*.) God have you in his blessed keeping.

⁷ I dare say that my Reader, as well as myself, wish that W. Paston had not thought the ceremonies used on this occasion too long for his Letter.

⁸ I do not find this year marked as a year of Pestilence by our Historians.

⁹ John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, beheaded in 1461.

¹⁰ William Gray, a man of noble birth and great learning: he continued Bishop of Ely till 1478, when he died at Downham in Norfolk, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

hys blyffyd kepyng Wr'tyn at lu'do' on the Fryday be for owr
¹¹ ladys day the natyvite in gret haft I pray r'comand me to my
 Suft^r. And to my Cofyn Cler.

Be yowr brodr,

¹² Wm. Paston.

¹¹ $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bunch of Grapes.

Pl. ix. N^o 14.

¹¹ 8th of September.

LETTER LU.

*To the Worshypfull and my
 ryght welbelovyd Cofyn John
 Paston.*

WORSHYPFULL and ryght welbelovyd Cofyn I co-
 maund me to yow lyke you to wete that y have resseyved
 a l're at thys tyme from John Bokkyng wyth acōp of the patent
 conc'nyng the Wardeshyp that ye wote off by whych y under-
 stand that ye have both wrought and holpen by your grete wyf-
 dom to bryng thys matier aboute whych y desyred your frend-
 shyp and gode avice for the seurtee of the seyd Waarde And for
 expedicon of whych y thank you ryzt hertlye and pray you to
 contynew foorth your gode labours in the same yn such wyse as it
 may be made sure ynall wyse thoy it cost me the more of my gode.

And

Written at London, on the Friday before our ¹¹ Lady's-day
the nativity, in great haste. I pray recommend me to my Sister
and to my Cousin Clere.

By your Brother,

¹² WILLIAM PASTON.

London,

Friday 6th of September,

1454. 33 H. VI.

¹² William Paston was the fourth Son of Sir William Paston, the Judge, and having
been a steady Lancastrian, had a pardon for all treasons, &c. under the great seal, dated
16th of July 1468. 8 E. IV.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 21.

L E T T E R LV.

To the worshipful and my right well beloved Cousin John Paston.

WORSHIPFUL and right well beloved Cousin, I com-
mend me to you, like you to weet that I have received
a Letter at this time from John Bokking, with a Copy of the
Patent concerning the Wardship that ye wote (*know*) of, by
which I understand that ye have both wrought and holpen, by
your great wisdom, to bring this matter about, which I desired
your friendship and good advice for the surety of the said Ward;
and for expedition of which I thank you right heartily, and pray
you to continue forth your good labours in the same, in such wise
as it may be made sure in all wise, though it cost me the more of
of my good.

VOL III.

G g

And

And where as it ys remembred me by the feyd l'res that y shuld labour to ghet the feyd Ward yn to my gouv'nce truely y can not see how y coude do it to be doon for y have none acqueynt'unce in that Contree that y coude trust too. Wythoute the Shyreve myght be my tender frende in thys cause or othyr such as ye thynk best Wherfor y pray you hertlye to take thys mater tenderly to hert. And that ye lyke seke a moyen of such frendys as ye can best avyse and may verrayly trust uppon to gyde thys mater yn such wyse as myne entent myght be sped for the possession of it (for now that y have go so ferre yn the matier) y wold not it faylled for no gode but it preved well and toke to A gode conclusioun And where as y have understand late by certeyn well will'rs to you warde whych have meoved me that yn case the feyd warde myght be had that ye desyre an Alliaunce shulde take atwyx A doughter of yours and the feyd Waard of whych moc'on y was ryght glad to hyre off And wylle be ryght well wylling and helpyng that your blode and myne myght increse yn alliaunces. And yff it please yow that by your wyfdom and gode conduyt that ye wolde help beere owte thys mater subst'unciallie ayenst my partie contrarie and eville

On the back of this Letter, in an ancient hand, is written as follows:

"Sr Jo. Fastolf willing to have married T. Fastolf to one of the daughters of Jo. Paston if he had obteyned the wardshipp of hym."

This Thomas Fastolf appears by the Pedigrees of the Family to have been the Son and heir of Nicholas Fastolf of Ipswich, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Braham, knt. and Cousin to Sir John Fastolf. He was at this time about ten years old, as appears by Letter LIX. vol. iv. where his mother complains of those, who had obtained the Wardship of him, endeavouring to make him younger than he was, that they might keep longer possession of his livelihood.—In 1465 she says he was above twenty-one years old.

This is a very curious Letter, as it affords us a true representation of the address made use of to get possession of a Minor, not only that the management of his Estate

wille's

And whereas it is remembered me by the said letters that I should labour to get the said Ward into my governance; truly I cannot see how I could do it to be done, for I have none acquaintance in that country, that I could trust to, without the Sheriff might be my tender friend in this cause, or other such as ye think best; wherefore I pray you heartily to take this matter tenderly to heart, and that ye like (*to*) seek a mean of such friends as ye can best advise, and may verily trust upon, to guide this matter in such wise as mine intent might be sped for the possession of it; for now that I have gone so far in the matter, I would not it failed for no good, but (*that*) it proved well and took to a good conclusion.

And whereas I have understood lately, by certain well-willers to you ward, which have moved me, that in case the said Ward might be had, that ye desire an alliance should take atwixt a daughter of yours and the said Ward; of which motion, I was right glad to hear of, and will be right well willing and helping that your blood and mine might increase in alliances; and if it please you that by your wisdom and good conduct, that ye would help (*to*) bear out this matter substantially against my party con-

might be in the hands of the Guardian, but likewise the power of marrying him to whom, and on what terms, he pleased.

In this case the match proposed seems to have been a proper one, if the young people, whose inclinations were never consulted on these occasions, happened to approve of each other; if they did not, they were both perhaps rendered miserable during their lives.

This power of marrying the Ward, when under the direction of a covetous or bad Guardian, was often most shamefully abused; and, tyrannical as it was, it continued in force till the reign of Charles II.

I should suppose that Sir J. Fastolf did not accomplish his purpose, both from what the mother of the young man complains of, in Letter LIX. vol. iv. and from no marriage taking place between him and a daughter of J. Paston.

wille's that I myght have myne entent I ensure you ye and y
shuld appoynt and accorde yn such wyse as ye shuld hale you
ryght well plesed both for the encresyng of your lynage and
also of myne And y pray you be ware whom ye make of your
counsaile and myne yn thys mater And that it may be well
bore owte er ye com thens and yn a sure wey And yff y had
knowe rathyr of your entent it shuld hafe cost me more of my
gode before thys to hafe com to A gode Conclusion Whych y
promysse yhyt shall bee and the mater take by the fayth of my
bodye Worshypfull and ryght welbelovyd Cofyn y pr'y god
spede you yn thys matier and sende you your gode defyrs. Wre-
ten at Castr the xj day of Novēber A° xxxiiij° R' H. vj.

yo' Cofyn,

¹ John Fastolfe.

Pl. I. by 64.

Paper Mark
a Bull

Pl. XXII. N° 16.

² It'm Cofyn I pray yow when ye see tyme
that my lord of ³Caunt'bury and my lord
⁴Cromewell may be spoke wyth for the godes
of my lord Bedford beyng yn dyv's men
handz be compelled to be brought ynne. as
ye shall see more along of thys mater wyth
the wrytyngs That y have made mencon and
left wyth John Bokkyng and Williā Barker.

¹ Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

² This relates to the money due to Sir John Fastolf from the Duke of Bedford, as his share of the Ransom paid by the Duke of Alençon, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Verneuil, in 1424. See Letter XXVIII. Vol. i. p. 121. and the notes thereto.

trary and evil-willers, that I might have mine intent, I ensure you, ye and I should appoint and accord in such wise as ye should hold you right well pleased both for the increasing of your lineage and also of mine; and I pray you beware whom ye make of your counsel and mine in this matter, and that it may be well bore out ere ye come thence and in a sure way; and if I had known rather (*earlier*) of your intent, it should have cost me more of my good before this, to have come to a good conclusion, which I promise yet shall be, and (*if*) the matter take, by the faith of my body.

Worshipful and right well beloved Cousin, I pray God speed you in this matter, and send you your good desires. Written at Caister, the 11th day of November, in the 33d year of King Henry VI.

Your Cousin,

¹ JOHN FASTOLF.

Caister,
Monday, 11 Nov.
1454. 33 H. VI.

² Item, Cousin I pray you when ye see time, that my Lord of ³ Canterbury, and my Lord ⁴ Cromwell may be spoken with for the Goods of my Lord Bedford, being in divers men's hands, be compelled to be brought in, as ye shall see more along (*at large*) of this matter, with the Writings that I have made mention (*of*) and left with John Bokking and William Barker.

³ Thomas Bourchier was elected from the See of Ely to the Archiepiscopal Dignity in April this year.

⁴ Henry Lord Cromwell.

LET-

LETTER LIII.

*To the w^rshepfull Sr and
my good Maystyr John
Paston at london in haste.*

WURSHEPFULL and Reuerent Sr and my good maistryr
I Recomaynd me to zow in as delygent wyse as on my
part ap^rteineth and please yow to wete that my maistryr was right
well pleasyd w^t yo^re feithfull labo^r in fulfellyng the patent for
the Warrd of A.B.C and he wyll feithfully labour as ye have
avyfed hym be wrytyng of John Bokyng And putte my maistryr
in more corage I meovyd to hym upon myn hed That encas be
the Child wer wyse that thaune it wer agood maryage be twen
my wyff yo^re doutir and hym And Sr my maistryr was glad
whan he herd that moyen Cosetheryng that yo^re doutyr is de-
sendyd of hym be the modyr syde And Sr I have enqwerid after
the seyde Child and no dout of but he is lykly and of gret wyt
as I her be report of sondr p^rfonez And it is so as I am credibly
enformyd that ¹ Jeffrey Boleyn maketh gret labo^rr for maryage
of the seyde Child to on of hese Doutez I wold well to hym but
bettyr to yow wherfor that ye delygently labo^rr for expedecyon
of this mater That encas ye can fynde ony moyan ther to have
the

On the back of the Letter is written in an ancient hand, "The said Jo. Paston al-
lyed to Sr Jo. Fastolf by his wife, vid. M^rgarett Mauteby, p^rut pat^r. infra."

We have in this Letter an instance of the desire of acquiring the wardship of rich
minors, in order to make advantageous marriages for the families of those who were so
fortunate as to obtain the care of them. Who the Ward was, is not here mentioned,
but the young lady alluded to, and whom T. Howys, in pleasantry I suppose, used to
call

L E T T E R LVI.

*To the worshipful Sir, and my good Master John Paston, at
London, in haste.*

WORSHIPFUL and reverend Sir, and my good master,
I recommend me to you in as diligent wise as on my
part appertaineth, and please you to weet that my master was
right well pleased with your faithful labour in fulfilling the
Patent for the Ward of A. B. C. and he will faithfully labour
as ye have advised him by writing of John Bocking; And (to)
put my master in more courage, I moved to him upon mine
head, that in case be the Child were wise, that then it were a
good marriage between my wife your daughter and him; and,
Sir, my master was glad when he heard that mean, considering
that your daughter is descended of him by the mother's side;
And, Sir, I have enquired after the said child, and no doubt of,
but he is likely and of great wit, as I hear by report of fundry
persons; and it is so, as I am credibly informed, that¹ Jeffrey
Boleyn maketh great labour for marriage of the said child to one
of his daughters; I would well to him, but better to you;
wherefore that ye diligently labour for expedition of this matter,
that in case ye can find any mean there to have the said child, and

call his wife, must have been either Anne or Margery, daughters of J. Paston, the elder of whom could not have been at this time more than ten years old.

¹ Sir Jeffrey Boleyn was Lord Mayor of London in 1457, and at this time had two daughters, Isabel, afterwards married to William Cheyney, Esq. and Anne, afterwards the wife of Sir Henry Heydon, of Baconsthorp, Knt.

This Jeffrey was great grand-father to Queen Anne Boleyn, the Queen of Henry VIII.

the feyd Child and we shal do feithefully o're delygens in lyke wyse her as ye avyse vs &c And S^r as ye thynke w^t auyse of my maistryr yelverton Jenney and otherez my maisterez counsell therē that the Shereff may be Rewardyd And yif my feyd maisterez counsell thynke it be to don that thaune ye lyke to take an ² actyoun vpon Anenteynt wheche ye most w^t them take vpon yow at this tyme in my maisterez absence for as ye do In that mater he woll hold h^y Content for Wylliam Barker hathe an Instruccyon of my maisterez Jntent vpon the same And I send Iohn Bokyng a copy of the panell wheche J shewed yow at Castr &c. Almyghty Ihu have yow et'nally in hese mercyfull governaunce Wretyn at Castr the Wednyfday next after seynt Martyn A^o xxxiiij.

³ Ch. Howps.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark

Bull's Head and Star

Pl. xxij. N^o 13.

² An Action of Attaint lies, after judgment, against a jury that hath given a false Verdict in any Court of Record, if the debt or damages are above 40s.

LETTER LIII.

*To my Right trusty and
welbelovyd Cosyn Iohn Paston
in goodly haste.*

RYGH^t trusty and welbelovyd Cosyn I comaund me to yow And please yow to wete that I am av'tysed that at adyn^r in Norwiche wher as ye and othyr Jentylmen wer p'sent that

we shall do faithfully our diligence in like wise here, as ye advise us, &c.

And, Sir, as ye think with advice of my master Yelverton, Jenney, and others my master's counsel therein, that the Sheriff may be rewarded, and if my said master's counsel think it be to *(be)* done, that then ye like to take an ² Action upon an Atteint, which ye must with them take upon you at this time in my master's absence, for as ye do in that matter he will hold him content, for William Barker hath an instruction of my master's intent upon the same. And I fend John Barker a copy of the panel, which I shewed you at Caister, &c.

Almighty Jesu have you eternally in his merciful governance.
Written at Caister the Wednesday next after Saint Martin, anno 33 (H. VI.)

³ THOMAS HOWYS.

Caister,
Wednesday, 13 Nov.
1454. 33 H. VI.

³ Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 16.

L E T T E R LVII.

To my right trusty and well beloved Cousin John Paston, in goodly haste.

RIGHT trusty and well beloved Cousin, I commend me to you, and please you to weet that I am advertised that at a Dinner in Norwich, where as *(at)* ye and other Gentlemen

VOL. III.

H h

were

that that ther were certeyn p'sonez Jentylnen whiche utteryd
 skornefull language of me as in thys wyse w^t mor seyeng war
 the gosune war and goo we to Dyn^r goo we wher to S^r John
 Fastolf and ther we shall well paye ther fore what ther menyng
 was I knowe well to no good entent to me ward wherfor Cosyn
 J prey yow as my truste is in yow that ye geve me knowelege
 be writing what Jentylnen they be that had this report with
 mor' and what mo Jentylnen wer p'sent as ye wold I shuld and
 wer my deute to do for yow in semblabyll wyse And I shall kepe
 yowr informatyon in this mater secret And w^t godds grace so
 p'vey for hem as they shall not all be well pleasyd at suche a tyme
 a man may knowe hese Frendes and hese fooes asond'r &c. Jhu
 p'serve and kepe yow wretyn at Cast'r the vij day of Fev'er A^o.
 xxxiiij R. H. vj^{ti}.

John Fastolf, knyght.

12 by 4.

Though Sir John Fastolf knew the meaning of these scornful words, we, at this distance of time shall find a difficulty in explaining them. They seem to signify, that Sir John was a Gascon, (*a Boaster*), and that it was necessary to beware of him, as those who eat at his table were often deceived by him to their cost.

CCC

were present that there were certain persons, Gentlemen, which uttered scornful language of me, as in this wise with more, saying, "War the Gofune war and go we to dinner, go we where? to Sir John Fastolf's, and there we shall well pay therefore." What their meaning was I know well to be no good intent to me ward; wherefore, Cousin, I pray you, as my trust is in you, that ye give me knowledge by writing what Gentlemen they be that had this report with more; and what more Gentlemen were present, as ye would I should, and (*it*) were my duty to do, for you in semblable (*similar*) wise. And I shall keep your information in this matter secret; and with God's grace so purvey for them as they shall not all be well pleased. At such a time a man may know his friends and his foes asunder, &c.

Jesu preserve and keep you, written at Caister, the 7th day of February, in the 33d year of King Henry VI.

JOHN FASTOLF, Knight.

Caister, Thursday,

7 Feb. 1454.

33 H. VI.

At the time that this spirited Letter was dictated by him and written by his Secretary, he was nearly 80 years of age; we see however the youthful ardour of the veteran soldier rekindling at the insulting language used in his absence to defame his character.

Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 15.

H h 2

LET-

LETTER LIII.

*To my ryght well be louyd
John Paston esquier be y^s
delivered.*

WURCHEPEFULL S'e and right well be louyd I grete
yow well desyryng to here of youre well fare Praying
you interlych to bie w^t me at dyner on Seynt benett day the
whiche xall be on Friday next Comyng or ell in brief tyme
Couenable to your ease to thentent yat I may Co'moun wyth
yow of diuers maters the whiche I p'pose to haue a doo jn be
your good advyse and in on especyall as for the chirche of
Stokesby whiche J understand xall moche be reulyd aft^r your
advyse and Content triftyng our Co'municacon had in y^e seyde
xall cause pees. and pleaser to all p'ties be leve of our lord the
whiche lord mote p'ferue you in all goode Wreten in my month
the xvij day of Marche.

Be your good frend;

The Abbot of S. benetts.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4.

This Abbey was founded by King Canute, between the years 1020 and 1030 in a low and marshy situation, in the parish of Ludham, in the County of Norfolk, and was dedicated to St. Benedict.

The Abbots of this monastery were mitred Abbots and Lords of Parliament, its revenues were large, and its consequence considerable. John Martin was the Lord Abbot at this time, having been elected in 1439; he died about 1459.

In the year 1455 St. Benet's day fell on a Friday (21 March.)—This day I suppose was their grand foundation festival.

LET

L E T T E R LVIII.

To my right well beloved John Paston, Esq. be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL Sir and right well beloved, I greet you well, desiring to hear of your welfare, praying you entirely to be with me at dinner on Saint Benne't's day, the which shall be on Friday next coming, or else in brief time convenient to your ease, to the intent that I may commune with you of divers matters, the which I propose to have a do in by your good advice, and in one especial. As for the Church of Stokesby, which I understand shall be much ruled after your advice and content, trusting our communication had in the said (*same*) shall cause peace and pleasure to all parties by leave of our Lord, the which Lord mote (*please to*) preserve you in all good. Written in my Monastery, the 17th day of March, &c.

By your good Friend,

The ABBOT of St. BENE'T's.

St. Benet's Abby,

Monday, 17th of March,

1454-5. 33 H. VI.

During the life of this Abbot there were several disputes between this Abbey and the City of Norwich, it was therefore perhaps on some business of this kind that the Abbot wanted to consult J. Paston.

In 1455 the presentation to the living of Stokesby lapsed to the Bishop of Norwich.

I have given this as a private Letter from a Lord Abbot, as having not the haughty style of an ecclesiastic, but the polite one of a gentleman.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 17. We have often seen Margaret Paston in the character of obedient wife, we have seen her as the tender and disconsolate one. Her letter to her husband, "I am in the most anxious and affectionate manner, could he be heavy in his bed, I am sure, after this letter."

L E T -

LETTER LX.

*To my right wurchipfull
husbond John Paston be yis
delyverid in hast.*

RIGHT wurchipfull hosbond I recomawnd me to yow
besechig yow that ye be not displeasid w^t me thow my
simplenesse cawfed yow for to be displeasid w^t me be my trowth
it is not my will noy^r to do ne fey that shuld cawfe yow for to
be displeasid and if I have do I am fory y^of and will amend itt
Wherefor I beseche yow to forgeve me and y^t ye bere none he-
vynesse in yo^r hert ayens me For yo^r displeasans shuld be to hevy
to me to jndur w^t J send yow the roll that ye sent for in selyd
be y^e bryng^r her of it was fownd in yo^r trussig Cofor As for
herig I have bowt an horflode for iiij^s vjd I can gett none ell
yett As for bever y^r is p^rmysid me somme but I myt not gete it
yett I sent to Ione Petcher to have an answer for y^e Wyndowis
for she myt not Come to me and she sent me word that she had
spoke y^of to Thom's Igh'm and he seyde y^t he shuld speke w^t
yow hymself and he shuld accord w^t yow wel jnow and seyde to
her it was not her p^t to desyr of hym to stop y^e lyts And also he
seyde itt was not his p^te to do itt be cawse y^e place is his but for
yeris And as for all oy^r eronds that ye have comandid for to be

We have often seen Margaret Paston in the character of the attentive, careful, and obedient wife; we here view her as the tender and disconsolate one. Her sorrow for her husband's displeasure at her "simpleness" is expressed in the most artless and affectionate manner; could he "bere hevynesse in his hert ayens her" after this Letter?

do

L E T T E R LIX.

*To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this
delivered in haste.*

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, beseeching you that ye be not displeased with me, though my simpleness caused you for to be displeased with me; by my truth it is not my will neither to do nor say that (*which*) should cause you for to be displeased, and if I have done (*it*), I am sorry thereof, and will amend it; wherefore I beseech you to forgive me, and that ye bear none heaviness in your heart against me, for your displeasure should be too heavy to me to endure with.

I send you the Roll that ye sent for, ensealed by the bringer hereof; it was found in your trussing Coffer. As for ^rHerring, I have bought an horse-load for 4s. and 6d. I can get none Eels yet; as for Bever there is promised me some, but I might not get it yet. I sent to Joan Petcher to have an answer for the windows, for she might not come to me; and she sent me word that she had spoken thereof to Thomas Ingham, and he said that he should speak with you himself, and he should accord with you well enough, and (*he*) said to her it was not her part to desire of him to stop the lights; and also he said it was not his part to do it, because the place is his but for years.

And as for all other errands that ye have commanded for to

^r These Herrings and Eels were for their Lent provision, and this Letter was probably written in 1454, when the first Sunday in Lent was on the 10th of March.

do y^ei shall be do als sone as y^ei may be do The bliffid Trynyte
have yow in his kepig Wretyn at Norwyche on y^e Monday next
aft^r seynt Edward.

Yowris,

2. 22. 23.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Part of the Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.

2. Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

LETTER LX.

To my Wurshipfull Maister

John Paston Esquier.

MI Maister Paston I recomaunde me to you and wher ye
shulde be enformed that I shulde sey to ^rHoward that
ye labored to be knyght of the shire I feid nev^r soo to hym I
tolde my lord of Norff^r atte london that I labored div[']se men
for Sr Roger Chaumb[']leyn And they feid to me they wolde have
hym but not Howard in asmeche as he hadde no lyvelode in

This is a true picture of modern electioneering, and such a Letter might be written from any County or Town in the kingdom during the time that a choice for Members was depending.

The exact date of this Letter cannot be ascertained, John Jenney was Member for the City of Norwich in 1452, and again in 1477, but if this Letter be addressed to John Paston the Father, (and I rather think it is) it must have been written I believe about 1455, when a Parliament was summoned to meet in July. John Jenney indeed was not then returned, but that does not signify, as he seems to have doubts whether he should be so or not.

the

be done, they shall be done als (*as*) soon as they may be done.
The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Norwich, on the Monday next after Saint Edward.

Yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Monday, March,

1454. 33 H. VI.

L E T T E R LX.

To my worshipful Master John Paston, Esquire.

MY Master Paston, I recommend me to you, and where(*as*) ye should be informed that I should say to ^r Howard that ye laboured to be Knight of the Shire, I said never so to him ; I told my Lord of Norfolk at London that I laboured divers men for Sir Roger Chamberlayn, and they said to me they would have him, but not Howard, in as much as he had no livelihood

He married Elizabeth, Daughter and heir of Thomas Wetherby, the rich Alderman of Norwich, who had been Mayor in 1427 and 1432, and Representative in Parliament for that City in 1437, on whose decease, in 1445, he inherited the Estate at Intwood in right of his wife. He was afterwards deputy Recorder and standing Counsel for the City, and died in 1497.

Howard was a relation to John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, whose character here appears to be that of a man who often talked without consideration.

the shire nor Con'sm'nt And I asked them hom they wolde have and they seid they wolde have you And thus I tolde hym And he seid on ayyfely as he kan doo full well I myght not sey ye labored ther for I herde nev' sey ye labored therfor be the feithe I vowe to God As for this Writ of the p'lem' of Norwich I thanke you that ye will labor ther in As for my Frendys ther I truste right well all the Aldermen except ² Broun and sech as be in his ³ dawnger I prey you spekith to Walter ⁴ Jeffrey and Herry ⁵ Wilton and maketh them to labor to your entent I prey you that yf ye thenke that it wull not be that it like you that to sey that ye meve it of your self and not be my desire sum men holde it right straunge to be in this ⁶ p'lem' and me thenketh they be wyse men that soo doo Wreten Atte ⁷ Jntewode on Sceint John Day in hast:

Your sūnt,

² John Jenney.

11 1/2 by 5 1/4.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. viii. N^o 2.

² Richard Brown was Mayor of Norwich in 1454, and Member for that City in 1460.

³ This means *in his debt*, and therefore under his influence.

⁴ Walter Jeffrey was Under-sheriff of Norwich in 1451, 1452 and 1459.

⁵ Henry Wilton was returned with John Jenney in 1477.

⁶ This must refer to the contests between the Houses of York and Lancaster.

L.C.C.

in the shire nor converfement (*acquaintance or intercourse.*) And I asked them whom they would have, and they faid they would have you, and thus I told him, and he faid unadvifedly, as he can do full well; I might not (*could not*) fay ye laboured therefore, for I heard never fay ye laboured therefore by the faith I owe to God.

As for this Writ of the Parliament of Norwich, I thank you that ye will labour therein; as for my Friends there, I trust right well all the Aldermen except ² Brown and fuch as be in his ³ danger; I pray you fpeak to Walter ⁴ Jeffrey and Harry ⁵ Wilton, and make them to labour to your intent. I pray you that if ye think that it will not be, that it like you to fay, that you move it of yourfelf, and not by my defire. Some men hold it right ftrange to be in this ⁶ Parliament, and me thinketh they be wife men that fo do. Written at ⁷ Intwood, on Saint John's day, in hafte.

Your Servant,

* JOHN JENNEY.

Intwood,

St. John's day, 24th of June.

About 1455. 33 H. VI.

⁷ This Estate came afterwards by purchafe to the Grefhams, and here it was that, in 1549, Sir Thomas Grefham, Knight, founder of the Royal Exchange, entertained John Dudley, the great Earl of Warwick, when he marched into Norfolk to attack Ket the rebel Tanner. It was afterwards fold to the Hobarts, and is at prefent the property of the honourable Henry Hobart, Member for the City of Norwich.

* Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 18.

LETTER LXI.

The Erls of Marche Warwyke and Salysbury.

RYGH T welbeloued we grete you wele and wherfor the
 tendre love that we haue to the conceruacion of the kyngs
 peas lawes and justice in this his realme of Englonde we haue
 Comaunded the kyngs peeple in his name be oure letters and
 diu'se writyngs that no man shulde robbe or dispoile S^r Thom's
 Todenh'm Knyght John Heyden John Wyndh'm Herry Toden-
 h'm and John Andrws and other weche have sued to us for oure
 seide letters We wolyng to eschewe that any p^rson shulde haue
 Colo^r be oure seide letters to noyse us or any of us that the seide
 S^r Thom's John Heyden John Wyndh'm Herry and John An-
 drws or any other of Suspecte Fame be accorded w^t us or any of
 us for suche wrongs as they or any of ham haue do to us our
 f^runts and ten'nts or wellwellers or that we shulde hafe hem in
 tendrenesse or fauour to discourag trewe people to swe a yen hem
 be the lawe We therfore notyfie to yow as we woll that it be
 notyfid to all people that we ne noon of us Jntende not to fauo^r
 or tendre hem or any other of suspecte fame but ratherto corecte
 suche

On the back of this Letter in an ancient hand is written, "The Copie of Thearles
 of Warr and Salisbur l're whereby appere The suspected life of Tudenh'm Heydon
 and others."

The persons here mentioned were steady Lancastrians, and I suppose immediately
 after the battle of St. Alban's, fought in May, applied to the Yorkists for that protec-
 tion which here seems to have been granted to them.

This

L E T T E R LXI.

The Earls of March, Warwick, and Salisbury.

RIGHT well beloved we greet you well, and where for the tender love that we have to the conservation of the King's peace, laws, and justice, in this his realm of England, we have commanded the King's people in his name, by our Letters and divers Writings, that no man should rob or despoil Sir Thomas Todenham, Knight, John Heydon, John Wyndham, Harry Todenham, and John Andrews, and others which have sued to us for our said Letters; We, willing to eschew that any person should have colour by our said Letters to noise us, or any of us, that the said Sir Thomas, John Heydon, John Wyndham, Harry, and John Andrews, or any other of suspected fame be accorded with us, or any of us for such wrongs as they or any of them have done to us, our servants, and tenants, or well-willers, or that we should have them in tenderness or favour to discourage true people to sue against them by the law; We therefore notify to you, as we will that it be notified to all people, that we, nor none of us, intend not to favour or tender them, or any other of suspected fame, but rather to correct such by the law,

This protection appears however to have given offence to some of their own party, and therefore these directors of the King and Government now found it necessary to qualify the terms granted by them to those in the opposite interest.

These protections were certainly prudent, and shewed that these Noblemen well understood the best methods of drawing over those in the contrary party to their side.

For the Earl of March's Autograph, when King Edward IV. see Pl. iv. N^o I. Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, Pl. I. N^o 7. Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, Pl. I. N^o 10.

suche be the lawe For we made our seide letters foly for kepyng
of the pease and Iustice and not for fauo^r of suspec^te condicone
And the holy trynyte kepe yow Wreten at london the xxijth
daye of Iule.

To all meyers Sceryves balyfys Constables
And all the kynges offecers and ministres in
Norff. and eche on of hem.

LETTER LXXI.

*To the worshipfull and
welbeloved John Paston
Esquier.*

RIGHT worshipful and welbeloved Sir I comaunde me
unto you And with al my hert thank you for the grete
labours that ye oftymes have diligently doon for my welbelov-
ed Servaunt John Ode to th'entent that he shuld mowe atteyne
to entre and enjoy peasible his enheritaunce as I am enfo^rmed
dew unto him and pray you of youre goode Contynuaunce cer-
tyfieng you that I have written unto Yelverton the Iustice that
he wol at some fesonable tyme com'on with Sir Thomas Tuden-
h'm Knyght and to offre him asmoche reason as it shal be
thought unto him and to you that lawe wol in that behalf
require

for we made our said Letters solely for keeping of the peace and justice, and not for favour of suspected conditions. And the Holy Trinity keep you. Written at London, the 23d day of July.

To all Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables,
and all the King's Officers and Ministers in
Norfolk, and each one of them.

London,

Wednesday, 23d of July,

1455. 33. H. VI.

L E T T E R LXII.

To the worshipful and well beloved John Paston, Esquire.

RIGHT worshipful and well beloved Sir, I commend me unto you, and with all my heart thank you for the great labour that ye oft times have diligently done for my well beloved servant John Ode, to the intent that he should mowe (*be able to*) attain to enter and enjoy peaceably his inheritance, as I am informed due unto him; and (*I*) pray you of your good continuance, certifying you that I have written unto Yelverton the Justice, that he would at some feasonable time commune with Sir Thomas Todenham, Knight, and to offer him as much reason, as it shall be thought unto him and to you, that law will in
that

require Praying you that ye wol Com'on with the faide Yelverton and to Conceyve betwix you such lawful meones of gyding of this matier that my said servaunt may have peaceably withowten grete trouble his said enheritaunce as J shal in case semblable do my labour unto your pleasaunce. And pray you that of the disposic'on of the said Sir Thomas Tudenh'm in this behalf I may be c'tified And jhu p'f've you written at London the xxvj day of July.

J. Bp'shopp

of Lincoln.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

At the bottom of this Letter is written in a hand of the time, "Litt. direct. Johā Paston it Michēm xxxiiij & xxxiiij Henr. sexti," which ascertains the date.

This Letter contains nothing of any importance, but being written by a learned prelate, I thought it proper to insert it.

LETTER LXXIII.

The duc of Norff.

BE hit knowen to alle the kyngs trewe liege peple The Cause of our Comynge in to this Contre ys by the Comandemēt of y^e kyng our Sou'ayn lorde. For to enquer of suche gret riotts extorcyons oryble wrongis and hurts as his highnesse ys credybyly enformyd ben don in yis Contre And to know in ferteayne

that behalf require, praying you that ye will commune with the said Yelverton, and to conceive betwixt you such lawful means of guiding of this matter that my said servant may have peaceably without great trouble his said inheritance, as I shall in case semblable (*similar*) do my labour unto your pleasance (*pleasure*). And (*I*) pray you that of the disposition of the said Sir Thomas Todenham in this behalf, I may be certified; and Jesu preserve you. Written at London, the 26th day of July.

JOHN, Bishop of Lincoln.

London,

26th of July, 1455.

33 H. VI.

John Chadworth was the second Provost of King's College, in Cambridge, and succeeded to the See of Lincoln in 1452, soon after which he was joined in commission with William Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester, for reforming the Statutes of both the Colleges built by King Henry VI. at Eton and Cambridge. He died in 1471.

Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 23.

L E T T E R LXIII:

The Duke of Norfolk.

BE it known to all the King's true liege people, the cause of our coming into this country is, by the commandment of the King our sovereign lord, for to enquire of such great riots, extortions, horrible wrongs, and hurts, as his highness is credibly informed be done in this country, and to know in certain,

VOL. III.

K k

by

teyne by yow y^t knowe the trowthe. by what p^rson or perfonys
 the seyde gret riotts extorcions oryble wrongis and hurts be done
 Wherfor we charge yow alle on y^e kyngs behalve our fou^rayne
 lorde y^t ze spar neyy^r for love drede ne fer y^t ze haue to any
 persone of what estat degre or Condicion he be but y^t ze sey the
 soth by whome suche offences be done And y^t ze spar no man
 y^t ze knowe guilty. And be the feyth y^t we owe to our fou^rayn
 lorde yey schal be chastyfid after ther desert. And hit reformyd
 as lawe requyrith. Also hit ys opunly puplysshid y^t ferteayne
 frunts of y^e lord Scales schulde in his name manasse and put men
 in feer and drede to Compleyne to us at y^{is} tyme of y^e seide
 hurts and greves seyng y^t we wolde abyde but a schort tyme
 her. And aftir our departyng he wolde haue the rewle and
 gourⁿance as he hay had affore tyme. We lete yow wete y^t
 nexst the kyng our fou^rayn lord be his good g^rce and lycence
 we woll haue the p^rncypall rewle and gouⁿance yrowh all yis
 Schir. of whiche we ber our name whyls y^t we be lyvyng as
 ferre as reson and lawe requyry. hofō eu^r. will grutche or sey
 the contrary for we woll y^t the lord Scales Sr Thom's Tuden-
 h'm Sr Mylis Stapylton and John Heydon haue in Knowleche
 yowh our persone be not dayly her. They schal fynde our
 power her at alle tymes to do the kyng our fou^rayn lord f^ruyse
 And to support and maytene yow alle in your right y^t ben the
 kyngs

On the back of this Letter is the following memorandum in an ancient hand, "A
 Copie of the Duke of N. L^re wh^{ch} sheweth y^t notable Injuries wer comytte by the
 L. Scales and his Adherents."

This Letter was written at a time when the King was under the direction of the Duke
 of York's party, about the year 1455, as it accuses the Friends of the House of Lan-
 caster of being guilty of riots and outrageous offences. It fairly shews the behaviour of
 the

by you that know the truth, by what person or persons the said great riots, extortions, horrible wrongs, and hurts be done; wherefore we charge you all, on the king's behalf our sovereign lord, that ye spare neither for love, dread, nor fear that ye have to any person of what estate, degree, or condition, he be, but that ye say the soth (*truth*) by whom such offences be done, and that ye spare no man that ye know guilty, and, by the faith that we owe to our sovereign lord, they shall be chastised after their desert, and it reformed as law requireth.

Also it is openly published that certain servants of the Lord Scales should in his name menace and put men in fear and dread to complain to us at this time of the said hurts and griefs, saying that we would abide but a short time here, and after our departing he would have the rule and governance as he hath had afore time. We let you weet that next the king our sovereign lord, by his good grace and licence, we will have the principal rule and governance through all this shire, of which we bear our name, while that we be living, as far as reason and law requireth, whosoever will grudge or say the contrary; for we will that the Lord Scales, Sir Thomas Todenham, Sir Miles Stapylton, and John Heydon have in knowledge, though our person be not daily here, they shall find our power here at all times to do the King our sovereign lord service, and to support and maintain you all

the victorious party to those in the opposite interest, and speaks the language of those who had the King in their power.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, died in 1461. For his curious Autograph see Pl. I. N^o 3.

From such orders as these, issued by the great men, we can judge better of the transactions of these turbulent times than from any regular history extant.

kyng's trewe lige men For hit may not ben seyde nay but y^t her
 hay ben the gretteft Riotts orryble wrongs and offences done in
 thise partyes. by the seide lord Scales Thom's Tudenh'm Mylis
 Stapilton Joh' Heydon And suche as ben Confedred on to theym
 y^t evir was seen in our dayes And most myschiffe growh ther
 maliciouse p'pose lyke to haue fallyn amonge the kyngs trewe
 liege peple now late at Norwiche ne had we bett^r p'vidid y^rfor.
 And also y^t god fortunyd us to w^tstande ther seyde malicious and
 evill disposid purpose Wherfor maky billiz of your grevance
 And Come to us And we schal brynge yow to the kynges p'sence
 our selfe whos p'sence wyll be her in all y^e hast w^t the m'cy of
 god And see y^e reformation yer of his owyn persone.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
 A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

L E T T E R LXXII.

*To my Right Wurshipfull
 husbonde John Paston be
 this deliv'd in hast.*

RIGHT Wurshipfull Husbonde I recomaunde me unto
 you plesith you to witte that myn Avnte ^r Mondeforthe
 hath desiryd me to write to you besechyng you that ye wol

The statute of wardship was destructive to many noble and ancient Families in this
 kingdom, whose heirs were ruined by improper matches and neglected education, it was
 therefore wisely abolished by the 12 Ch. II.

wochesafe

in your right that be the King's true liege men ; for it may not be said nay, but that here hath been the greatest riots, horrible wrongs, and offences done in these parts by the said Lord Scales, Thomas Todenham, Miles Stapylton, John Heydon, and such as be confederated unto them that ever was seen in our days ; and most mischief through their malicious purpose like to have fallen among the King's true liege people now late at Norwich, ne had we (*had we not*) better provided therefore ; and also that God fortun'd us to withstand their said malicious and evil disposed purpose.

Wherefore make bills of your grievance and come to us, and we shall bring you to the King's presence ourself, whose presence will be here in all the haste with the mercy of God, and see the reformation there of his own person.

L E T T E R LXIV.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me unto you, pleaseth you to weet, that mine Aunt ¹ Moundford hath desired me to write to you, beseeching you that ye will vouch-

We are here informed that robberies on the road (at least towards London) were at this time frequent.

¹ Osbert Moundford, Esq. of Hockwold, married Elizabeth, Daughter of John Berny, Esq. and by her had Mary, their Daughter and sole heir, who married Sir William Tindale, Knight of the Bath.

wochsafe to cheveshe for her At london xx^{ti} marke for to be payed to Mastre Ponyngs outhur on saterday or sonday weche schalbe seint Andrwes Daye in discharchyng of them that be bounden to Mastre Ponyngs of the seide xx^{ti} marke for the wardeship of her doughter the weche xx^{ti} marke she hath delyver^r to me in golde for you to have at yo^r Comyng home for she dare not Adventure her money to be brought up to london for feere of robbing for it is seide heere that there goothe many thefys betwyx this and london weche causeth her to beseeche you to content the seide money in discharyng of the matre And of them that be bounden For she wolde for no goude that the day were broken And she thankyth you hertely for the greet labo^r and besynesse that ye have had in that matre and in all others touchyng her and hers Wherefore she seithe she is ever bounden to be yo^r ^a bedwoman and ever wolle be whyle she levethe my Cosyn her sone and hese wife recomaundethe them unto you besechyng you that ye woll weche safe to be her goode mastre As ye have ben A fore tyme For they be enformed that Danyell is comen to Ryfying castell And hes men make her boft that her mastre shal be A yene At Braylton wⁱⁿne shorte tyme Ferthermore As for the matre that my sone wrote to me for the Boxe wheron wreten *Falce carte Sproute* that J shulde enquer of Will^m Wurcestr^r wher it were the seide Williā was not at home sen that I had hes letter but As sone as he comethe home I shall enquere of hym

^a A Beadsmā or Beadswoman, was a person employed in praying, though generally in praying for another.

And

safe to chevise (*provide*) for her at London twenty marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) for to be paid to Master Ponyns, either on Saturday or Sunday, which shall be Saint Andrew's day, in discharging of them that be bounden to Master Ponyns of the said twenty marks for the Wardship of her daughter, the which twenty marks she hath delivered to me in gold for you to have at your coming home, for she dare not adventure her money to be brought up to London for fear of robbing, for it is said here that there goeth many thieves betwixt this and London, which causeth her to beseech you to content the said money in discharging of the matter, and of them that be bounden, for she would for no good that the day were broken; and she thanketh you heartily for the great labour and business that ye have had in that matter, and in all others touching her and hers, wherefore she saith she is ever bounden to be your² Beadswoman, and ever will be while she liveth.

My Cousin, her son, and his wife recommendeth them unto you, beseeching you that ye will vouchsafe to be their good Master, as ye have been afore time; for they be informed that Daniel is come to Rising Castle, and his men make their boast that their Master shall be again at Brayston within short time.

Furthermore, as for the matter that my son wrote to me for the box whereon was written *Falſe Carte Sproute* that I should enquire of William Worcester where it were; the said William was not at home since that I had his letter, but as soon as he cometh home I shall enquire of him, and send you an answer.

As

And sende you an Answer As towchyng for yo^r ³ leveryes ther can noon be gete here of that coloure that ye wulde have of nouthur murrey nor blwe nor goode ruffets undrenethe iij^s the yerde at the lowest p[']ce and yet is ther not j nough of on clothe and coloure to f[']ve you And as for to be p[']vrveid in Suff it wul not be purveide nought now A yentst this tyme w['] oute they had had Warnyng At Michelmesse as I am enformed and the bliffed trenyte have you in his kepyng Wreten at Norweche on seint Kateryn Day.

Be yo^r

⁴ Margaret

Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

³ A very ingenious and learned Friend of mine has suggested to me that the honourable and ancient families of this land were formerly guided in the colours of their liveries by the metals and colours in which their arms were blazoned; his suggestion is here verified, for the arms of Paston were, argent, fix Fleurs de Lys azure, and a chief indented or: if therefore ruffet or grey may be equivalent to argent, the murrey and blue are the identical or and azure of the arms.

LETTER LXV.

To my maist^r Iohn Paston.

PLEASE your maist^rshyp to wete that I had sent yow word of the gode chiere that the p[']sons ye wote off had here uppon new yeer day and how well they toke it but W. Barker coude playnly enforme yow. And John Sadler of Ocle told me how they

As touching for your ³ Liveries, there can none be gotten here of that colour that ye would have of, neither murrey, nor blue, nor good russet, underneath 3s. the yard, at the lowest price, and yet is there not enough of one cloth and colour to serve you; and as for to be purveyed in Suffolk, it will not be purveyed not now against the time, without they had had warning at Michaelmas, as I am informed: and the blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, on Saint Katherine's day.

By Your,

⁴ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, 25th of November,

1455, or 1460.

34 or 39 H. VI.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 20.

N. B. St. Andrew's day fell on a Sunday, in the years 1455 and 1460; this Letter was therefore most probably written in one of these years.

L E T T E R LXV.

To my Master John Paston.

PLEASE your mastership to weet that I had sent you word of the good cheer that the persons ye wote of had here upon New Year's Day, and how well they took it, but W. Barker could plainly inform you; and John Sadler of Ocle (*Acle*) told

Vol. III.

L 1

me

they av'nted of it when he of lynne came by h̄y at nyzt lyeng that he had neide^r bett^r chier &c. my maistr demaundyth me fondry tymes when ye shall be here j coude not sey till thys day be passed. Williā¹ Geney shall be here to morn. so wold Ih's ye were her then J asked licence to ryde yn to my Contree. And my maistr dyd not gr'unt it he seyde hys wille was for to make &c. y aunfuerd it fyt not me to know it. god gefe h̄y gr'ce of holfom Councell and of A gode dispofic'on. non est opus un' diei nec un' septiane my lord Bedford wylle was made yn so bryeff and gen'all t'mys that yn to thys day by the space of xx yeer can neide^rhase ende but all wey new to Constrew and oppynable so A gen'allte shall ne may be so gode as A p'ticuler declaracon. j wryte blontly. J had foryete to hase told yow maistr Fylongley meoved me to enforme my maistr to hase a gen'alle² pease so it myzt be worshypfull y hase seyde no word for j can not medle yn hygh mat's that passyth my wyt. And therfor yff ye and W. Geney mete to gheders ye know and can devyne best what y³ to be doon. our lord be w^t yow Wryt hastily vj day januar.

³ W. Botoner, H. R.

11 1/2 by 4.

Seal.

It appears to be St. John's

Head in a Charger.

Motto illegible.

Pl. xxiii. N^o 4.

We see in this Letter Sir J. Fastolf's desire to make his Will, and the difficulties which would probably occur in making a proper one.

John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, died at Paris in 1435, we can therefore from that circumstance ascertain the date of this Letter, and for more particulars relative to that Duke's Will the Reader is referred to Letter XXVIII. Vol. i. p. 121.

¹ Sir William Jenney was made a Judge of the King's Bench about 1477, and died in 1483, and was buried at Thebarton, in Suffolk.

LCU

me how they avaunted of it when he of Lynn came by him at night lying, that he had neider (*never*) better cheer, &c.

My Master demandeth (*asketh*) me sundry times when ye shall be here; I could not say till this day be passed; William¹ Jenney shall be here to morn̄ (*to-morrow*), so would Jesu ye were here then. I asked licence to ride into my Country, and my Master did not grant it; he said his Will was to make, &c. I answered, "it fit not me to know it." God give him grace of wholesome counsel, and of a good disposition, non est opus unius diei, nec unius septimanæ.

My Lord Bedford's Will was made in so brief and general terms, that unto this day by the space of twenty years can never have end, but always new to construe, and opiniable; so a generality shall nor may be so good as a particular declaration.

I write bluntly; I had forgotten to have told you Master Fylongley moved me to inform my Master to have a general² peace, so it might be worshipful. I have said no word, for I cannot meddle in high matters that passeth my wit; and therefore if ye and W. Jenney meet together ye know and can divine best what is to be done. Our Lord be with you; writ hastily, 6th day of January.

³ W. BOTONER. H. R.

Caister,
6th of January,
1455. 34 H. VI.

² This seems to relate to Sir John's own private disputes rather than to the public disturbances.

³ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 24. For some account of him see Letter XXV. Vol. i. p. 104. Note ¹.

The impression on the Seal of this Letter is curious, but it is too imperfect to be accurately made out, though I believe it is St. John's Head in a Charger; the Motto is quite illegible.

NUMBER LXVJ.

*Bill' De debit's Reg's in prtibz
Fr'ncie Johi Fastolf militi
debit'*

THESE ben the Iniuries Losses and Damages that the seyd Fastolf hath had as well withynne this Royaulme of England as in othir parties in maner and fourme as it ensewith.

First It is to consider how that the seyd Fastolf hath ben vexed and troubled feth he came last into this lande by the myght and power of the Duc of Suffolk and by the labour of his counseill and seruants in diuers Wyfes as in grete oppressions greuous and outrageous amer-ciements and manye grete horrible extorcions as it may appere more pleyndly by a rolle of Articles ther'uppon made the damages of which extenden to the somme of - - - - -

V m^l m^{rc}

Item the seyd Fastolf hath be gretely damaged and hurt by the myght and power of the seyd Duc of Suffolk and his Counseill in Disseising and taking away a maner of the seyd Fastolf called Dedh'm in the Counte of Essex to the value of C m^{rk}s of yerly Rent which was hal-

V m^{rc}

* Many of the Letters in this Collection mention the disputes between the Duke of Suffolk and Sir John Fastolf concerning different Manors and Estates.

N U M B E R LXVI.

Billa de debitis Regis in partibus Franciæ Johanni Fastolf militi debitis.

THESE be the Injuries, Losses, and Damages that the said Fastolf hath had, as well within the Realm of England as in other parts in manner and form as it ensueth,

First, it is to consider how that the said Fastolf hath been vexed and troubled since he came last into this land by the might and power of the Duke of Suffolk, and by the labour of his counsel and servants in divers wise, as in great oppressions, grievous and outrageous amercements, and many great horrible extor-	£.	s.	d.
tions, as it may appear more plainly by a roll of Articles thereupon made, the damages of which extend to the sum of 5000 marks. =	3333	6	8

Item, the said Fastolf hath been greatly damaged and hurt by the might and power of the said Duke of Suffolk and his counsel, in disseising and taking away a manor of the said Fastolf's, called Dedham, in the County of Essex, to the value of 100 marks (66l. 13s. 4d.) of yearly rent, which was holden from the said Fas-	333	6	8
---	-----	---	---

den from the feyd Fastolf by the terme of iij yere day and more to his grete hurt with CC marks in costs expended in Recouv^re of the same the some in all - - - - -

Item there ys cast in to the kyngs hands by untrew forged offices and inquisicions supposed to be founde by dyuers Eschetours in the Countees of Norff^r and Suffolk iij certeyn maners of the feyd Fastolf to the value of C. m^rks yearly which feyd offices and inquisicions were never dewly founde. but forged by untrue Imaginacons and meenys of certeyn persones hys eville Will^rs as it hath be confessed by thos that were appoynted and named to be uppon the enquestys And by the maliciouse labour of his feyd evylle will^rs and the feyd maners have ben troubled and put in plee this iiij yere day and more to the damage and costs of the feyd Fastolf the some - - - - -

Item the feyd Fastolf hauyng the yest of the Baronyes and Lordshipp of ² Sillie Guill^m and Lafuze in the Countee of Mayn to hym and to his assignes for ever the which weren goten by the feyd Fastolf and no charge to the King For the value and Denombrement of iiij m^l ³ saluz of yerly Rent he was commaunded by the

² Sir John took the Castle of Sillie le Guillem in 1425, and from which he was dignified with the title of Baron.

tolf by the term of three year day and more,
to his great hurt, with 200 marks (133*l.* 6*s.*
8*d.*) in costs expended in recovery of the same,
the sum in all - - - - - 500 marks =

£. s. d.

Item, there is cast into the King's hands by
untrue forged offices and inquisitions, supposed
to be found by divers Escheators in the Coun-
ties of Norfolk and Suffolk, three certain Ma-
nors of the said Fastolf, to the value of 100
Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) yearly, which said of-
fices and inquisitions were never duly found, but
forged by untrue imaginations, and means of
certain persons his evil willers, as it hath been
confessed by those that were appointed and nam-
ed to be upon the inquests. And by the malici-
ous labour of his said evil willers, the said ma-
nors have been troubled and put in plea this
four year day and more, to the damage and
costs of the said Fastolf, the sum of 500 marks =

333 6 8

Item, the said Fastolf having the gift of the
Baronies and Lordship of ² Sillie Guillem and
Lafuze, in the County of Mayne, to him and
to his assigns for ever, the which were gotten
by the said Fastolf, and no charge to the King,
for the value and denomberment (*number*) of
4000 ³ Saluts of yearly rent, he was command-

³ The Salute was a gold coin of Henry VI. current in France for 1*l.* 5*s.* English.

King's l'res to deliver upp the sayd Baronyes
and lordshipps to the Kyngs Commiffioners
p'myffyng hym by the kyngs commaundement
to have be Recompensed therefor as the feyd
Fastolf hath to shewe and he not Recompensed
nor Rewarded no thing for the levyng of his
seyd Baronyes and lordship to the damag's of
the feyd Fastolf of the somme of - - - -

m^l m^l v^c m^{re}

Item Wher as the feyd Fastolf had a Prisonner
of his owen taking called Guill'm⁺ Remond
which was Raunfoned and agreed to pay hym
for his Raunson with the m'rks the somme of
xxxij m^l saluz the prisonner withoute knowe-
lege or licence of the feyd Fastolf was take away
from hym by the Duc of Bedford then beyng
the Kyngs Regent of Fraunce And with the
seyd Prisonner he caused the Towne of Com-
pyn than leyng in the Frensh Partye ys gou-
uernaunce for to be yeldyn to the Kyng and to
his feyd Regent in his name And the feyd Fas-
tolf after long Purfewts made to the Kyng and
his Conseill was Recompensed but to the value
of m^l vj^c saluz in lands in Normandye when
they fortun'd to falle into the Kyngs hands
which lands he hath also lost And also the feyd
Fastolf hath lost the Residue of the feyd Raun-
son besyde the feyd lands to the somme of -

m^l.m^l.m^l.m^l.m^{re}

* In 1423 he took the Castle of Pacy, the Governor whereof was Guillaume Rey-
mond.

Item

ed by the King's Letters to deliver up the said Baronies and Lordship to the King's Commissioners, promising him, by the King's commandment to be recompensed therefore, as the said Fastolf hath to shew, and he not recompensed nor rewarded nothing for the leaving of his said Baronies and Lordship, to the damages of the said Fastolf of the sum of 2500 marks =

£. s. d.

1666 13 4

Item, Whereas the said Fastolf had a Prisoner of his own taking, called Guill'm + Remond, which was ransomed, and agreed to pay him for his ransom with the marks the sum of 3200 Saluts, the Prisoner, without knowledge or license of the said Fastolf, was taken away from him by the Duke of Bedford, then being the King's Regent of France, and with the said Prisoner he caused the town of Compeyn, then lying in the French party's governance, for to be yielded to the King, and to his said Regent in his name; and the said Fastolf, after long pursuits made to the King and his Council, was recompensed but to the value of 1600 Saluts in lands in Normandy, when they fortun'd to fall into the King's hands, which lands he hath also lost; and also the said Fastolf hath lost the residue of the said ransom, besides the said lands, to the sum of 4000 marks - - - - - =

2666 13 4

Item the feyd Fastolf ys yhyt owyng for his porcion and part for the Recompens and Reward that shuld grow and be dewe to hym for the takyng of Iohn callyng hym Duc of Alauncon at the Batayle of ⁵ Vernell Which that payd for hys Raunson xl m^l m^rks Which Rewarde besyde the lord Wyllughbye ys part shuld extend to the somme of - - - - -

m^l.m^l.m^l.m^l.m^rc

Item ys dewe to the feyd Fastolf by the execution of the last wylle and testamēt of John Duc of ⁶ Bedford whos soule god affoyle for Prestys and othir Charges for saufgarde and keeping of certeyn fortereffes Castellys and Townes and for othir costs prests and charges by hym born in his service As it may appiere in certeyn Articles Writen in a Rolle partic'lerly of the same the somme of - - - - -

iiij^{ml} D^c iiij^{xx} xix.m^rc. v^s. vj^d.

S'm To^l xxj^{ml}. iiij^{xx} xix marc v^s vj^d.

Item feth the ⁷ last Comyng ove^r of the feyd Fastolf into this Royaume as by the space of xv yere and more he hath born grete costs charges and expens at alle tymes intending uppon the kyngs highnesse and the lordes of his Counfeille as he hath had in Commaudemēt And

⁵ This battle was fought in 1424.

⁶ See Letter XXVIII. vol. i. p. 120.

Item, the said Fastolf is yet owing for his portion and part for the recompence and reward that should grow and be due to him for the taking of John, calling himself Duke of Alanfon, at the battle of ⁵ Verneuil, which that paid for his ranfom 40000 marks (26666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*), which reward, beside the Lord Willoughby's part, should extend to the sum of 4000 marks=

£. s. d.
2666 13 4

Item, is due to the said Fastolf, by the execution of the Last Will and Testament of John Duke of ⁶ Bedford, whose soul God assoil! for Prests and other Charges for safeguard and keeping of certain Fortresses, Castles, and Towns, and for other costs, prests, and charges by him borne in his service, as it may appear in certain Articles written in a roll particularly of the same, the sum of - - 4599 marks. 5*s.* 6*d.* =

3066 5 6

Sum total 21099 marks. 5*sh.* 6 pence.=14066 5 6

Item, Since the last ⁷ coming over of the said Fastolf into this realm, as by the space of 15 years and more, he hath borne great costs, charges, and expences, at all times attending upon the King's Highness, and the Lords of his Council, as he hath had in commandment, and was his

⁷ Sir John finally left France in 1440, this Account therefore was drawn up in 1455.
33 H. VI.

was his part to doo For the which and for all
 the seruice that he hath doo to the Right noble
 Prince Kyng Herry the iiijth Ayle to our Sou-
 u'agn lord that now ys And to the most victori-
 ous prince and kyng his fader whos soulys god
 affoyle And also to our feyd Souuereyn lord he
 hath had nouthur fee wagys Reward ne Recom-
 pense in this his Royaume of England but hath
 born it of hys own propre godys at all tymys to
 the Kyngs hono^r and prouffit as to his power
 Which ys to hym Right greuouse and chargeable
 trusting to have be considered and Rewarded as
 othir men of suche Deseruyng have be in the
 tymes of the Right noble progenitours of our
 feyd souu'eyn lords late Kyngs of this feyd
 Reaume.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17.
 Paper Mark,

a Bull's Head and Star, &c.
 Pl. x. N^o 3.

N U M B E R LXIII.

*A Declaracōn of the Costys which Sr John Fastolf was at bē
 wthout this Royaume.*

THE Declaracions of certeyn Prests Costys and Chargys Don
 and born by Sir John Fastolf aswel in the tyme of the
 moſte noble and victoryouse princes of blessed memorie Kyng
 Herry

part to do, for the which, and for all the service that he hath done to the right noble Prince King Harry the IV. Ayeul (*grandfather*) to our Sovereign Lord that now is, and to the most victorious Prince and King his father, whose souls God affoil, and also to our said Sovereign Lord, he hath had neither fee, wages, reward, nor recompence in this his realm of England, but hath borne it of his own proper goods at all times to the King's honour and profit, as to his power, which is to him right grievous and chargeable, trusting to have been considered and rewarded as other men of such deserving have been in the times of the right noble Progenitors of our said Sovereign Lords late Kings of this said Realm.

1455. 33 H. VI.

N U M B E R LXVII.

A Declaration of the Costs which Sir John Fastolf was at, being without this Realm.

THE Declaration of certain Prests, (*Loans*) Costs, and Charges, done and borne by Sir John Fastolf, as well in the time of the most noble and victorious Princes of blessed memory,

Herry the iiijth. Kyng Herry vth as in the tyme of our souuereyn lord Kyng that now is in hys Werrys by yend the See as by the Articles that folowen more pleynly apperyth.

First It ys to be Remembred that to the sayd Fastolf ys owyng for diuers Costys and chargis by hym born for the tyme that he occupied thoffice of the Constabulrye of Burdeux for the faufgarde of the Kyngys Duchie of Guyen as it apperith pleynlye by accompt made of the sayd office of Constabulrye Remaynyng in the kyngs Cheker at Westm^r of Record Wherof he yet nouthur had payement nor assignement of the somme of - - - - -

Item in like wyse there ys owyng to the feyd Fastolf for Wagys for hys seruice don to the Kyng and to the Duc of Clarence beyng the Kyng ys lieutenant in the feyd Duchie of Guyen as it may appere under suffisaunt Writing the somme of - - - - -

As there are not only several Letters in this Collection of the hand-writing of that renowned warrior Sir John Fastolf, but as he is likewise mentioned in many others, I thought the two following statements of sums of money due to him from the Crown would be acceptable to the Reader, as they ascertain several of his enterprizes in France, and point out to us the two prisoners which he took in the French wars, and who, by the large sums agreed to be paid for their ransom, must have been persons of great consequence in the military line.

This first declaration relates entirely to money due to him on the account of the wars and transactions in France. The second states the injuries and losses which he had sustained both in England and France.

There is no date to either of them, but from the mention of the time since his last return from France, and which, from an account of his life appears to have been in the year 1440, these representations were made in the year 1455, 33 H. VI.

mory, King Harry the IVth. King Harry Vth. as in the time of our Sovereign Lord King that now is in his wars beyond the Sea, as by the Articles that follow more plainly appeareth.

First, it is to be remembered that to the said Fastolf is owing for divers costs and charges by him borne for the time that he occupied the office of the Constabulary of Bourdeaux, for the safe guard of the King's Duchy of Guyenne, as it appeareth plainly by account made of the said office of Constabulary, remaining in the King's Exchequer at Westminster of record, whereof he yet neither had payment nor assign- ment, the sum of

£. s. d.
227 15 3½

Item, in like wise there is owing to the said Fastolf for wages for his service done to the King, and to the Duke of Clarence, being the King's Lieutenant in the said Duchy of Guyenne, as it may appear under sufficient writing, the sum of

202 10 0

Sir John Fastolf, Knight, was born about 1377, the last year of the reign of King Edward III. and lost his father during his minority. In 1408, 10 H. IV. he married in Ireland, Milicent, daughter of Robert Lord Tibetot, and widow of Sir Stephen Scroope, by whom she then had one son.

Sir John was soon after engaged to serve in the French wars, by Thomas of Lancaster, Duke of Clarence, and continued in that service with great honour to himself, and credit to his country till the year 1440, when he finally returned, and settled in his native country, where he lived in great state and hospitality, finishing a long and well spent life in 1459, being then about 83 years of age, and leaving no issue to inherit his vast possessions, he bequeathed a great part of them to charitable and useful purposes.

Item,

Item in lyke wyse ys owyng to the feyd Fastolf for costys and chargys that he bare when he was lieutenant of the Towne of ¹ Harflew in Normandie as yt shewith by a debentur made to the feyd Fastolf with hym Remaynyng - - - - -

Cxxxiiij li vj^d
viiij^d.

Item in lyke wyse ys owyng to the feyd Fastolf for the Keping and vytaylyng of the ² Bastyle of Saint Anthoyne in Paris as it apperith by writing suffisaunt and by the Creditours of Sir John ³ Tyrell knyght late Trefourier of the Kyngs house Remaynyng in the Eschequer of Westm^r of Record the somme of

xliij li.

Item there ys owyng to the feyd Fastolf for the saufgarde of the Toune of Pount ⁴ Melank in the Parties of Fraunce as it apperith by accompt therof made in the Kyngs Eschequer of England of Record the somme of - - -

iiij^{xx} ix li. x^s.
iiij^d. ob. q.

S^ml. xliij m^{rc}. ix^s. q.

And in semblable wyse oue^r all this ys owyng to the feyd Fastolf For prests and wagys of hym and his Retenues beyng in the Kings seruice in

¹ Sir John Fastolf was Lieutenant of Harfleur, in 1415.

² The foundation of this since terrible prison, was laid by Hugh Aubriot on the 22d of April 1369, 43 of our King Edward III. and the 6th of Charles V. of France.

Item, in like wise is owing to the said Fastolf for Costs and Charges that he bare when he was Lieutenant of the Town of ¹ Harfleur, in Normandy, as it sheweth by a Debenture made to the said Fastolf (*and*) with him remaining.

£. s. d.
133 6 8

Item, in likewise is owing to the said Fastolf for the keeping and victualling of the ² Bastile of St. Anthony in Paris, as it appeareth by writing sufficient, and by the Creditors of Sir John ³ Tyrel, Knight, late Treasurer of the King's House, remaining in the Exchequer of Westminster of record, the sum of - -

42 0 0

Item, there is owing to the said Fastolf for the safe-guard of the Town of Pount ⁴ Melank in the parts of France, as it appeareth by account thereof, made in the King's Exchequer of England of record, the sum of - -

89 10 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Sum m^l xliij marks ix Sh. i Farthing.

And in semblable wise over all this is owing to the said Fastolf for Prests and Wages of him and his Retinues being in the King's service

³ He was grandfather to Sir James Tyrel, the supposed murderer of Edward V. and his brother.

⁴ Port Meulent was taken in 1422.

his Royaume of Fraunce and Duchie of ⁵ Normandie as wel abowte the faufgarde and gou-
u^rnaunce of his tounys Castell and fortereffes of
Alaunfon Fr^eney le Vicounte Vernell Honne-
flete As for othir grete caufys and charges born
and payd in the kyng our fouuereyn lord ys
Dayes that nowys forthe auancement of his
Conquest the good and utilite of hym of his
seyd Royaume and Duchie forseid As it appe-
ryth oppenly by accomptys made in the Cham-
bre of Accompts of Paris and Roon Wherof the
vidimus remaynen with the seyde Fastolf And
also by c^rteyn Debentur Conteynyng the seyde
sommen Redy to shewe Wherof the seyde Fastolf
hiderto hath had nouth^r payement nor affig-
nacion the somme of - - -

v m^l. iiij^{xx}. ij
marc. xiiij^s. iiij^d.
ob. ft^rling.

S^to^l vj m^l. cxxv m^rrc.

ix^s. ob q.

⁵ Sir John was several years governor of Normandy, I believe from about 1423 to 1440, when he left France.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17, being a whole Sheet of stout and
fine Paper, having the Paper Mark of a
Bull's Head and Star, &c. Pl. x. N^o 3.

CCC

Vol. III.

in his realm of France and Duchy of ^s Nor-
mandy, as well about the safe-guard and gover-
nance of his Towns, Castles, and Fortresses of
Alanfon, Frefney, Le Vicounte, Verneil, Houn-
fleet, as for other great causes and charges borne
and paid in the King our Sovereign Lord's days
that now is, for the advancement of his con-
quest, the good and utility of him, of his said
Realm and Duchy aforefaid, as it appeareth
openly by accounts made in the Chamber of
Accounts of Paris and Roan, whereof the Vidi-
mus remain with the said Fastolf, and also by
certain Debenture containing the said Sums,
ready to shew, whereof the said Fastolf hitherto
hath had neither payment nor assignation,
The sum of v m^l iiij^{xx} ij marks xiiij Sh. iiij^d $\frac{1}{2}$
sterling - - - - - =

£. s. d.

3388 13 3^d

Sum total vj m^l cxxv marks, ix Sh. od.

3 Farthings sterling - =

4083 15 7^d

1455. 33 H. VI.

N n 2

LET-

L E T T E R LXXIII.

*To our right truste and
right welbeloved John
Paston Esquier And Will'm
Norwiche and to either of
theym.*

RIGHT truste and right welbeloved We grete you hertly wel. And where as Sr. Nichol Bowet Knight sueth an appeelle in the Countee of Norff ayenst oon Robert Offord of Berking for the Deeth of oon Sr. Henry Bowet Clerc. We being enformed y^t the matier is pitevous praie you hertly y^t ye wul in our behalve moeve and entreete the Shirreve of the saide Countee to surceese of y^r execucion of any p^rcesse upon y^r ¹ exigent to hym directed in yat behalve unto y^e next t^rme so y^t resonable meanes maye be founden to save the saide Robert harmeleffe. Lating hym wite y^t we have written to the saide Sr Nichol for a cōvenient treetie to be taken in that behalve as shalbe thought according to right. And god have you ever in his keping. Written in our Manoir of Mortelake the vij Daie of Septemb'r.

² **Archbyschopp
of Cant^rburp.**

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4.

This Letter was most probably written during the time that the Archbishop was Lord Chancellor, and it may be supposed that this Robert Offord had been tried and acquitted upon an indictment for the Murder, and that now the next of kin to the deceased, not being satisfied with the Verdict, had lodged his Appeal.

¹ The Exigent is a Writ, requiring the appearance of the party, and if he come not at the last proclamation he is out-lawed.

UCC

L E T T E R LXVIII.

*To our right trusty and right well beloved John Paston, Esq. and
William Norwich, and to either of them.*

RIGHT trusty and right well beloved, We greet you heartily well; And whereas Sir Nichol Bowet, Knight, sueth an appeal in the County of Norfolk, against one Robert Offord of Barking, for the death of one Sir Henry Bowet, Clerk. We, being informed that the matter is piteous, pray you heartily that ye will in our behalf move and entreat the Sheriff of the said County to surcease of the execution of any process upon the¹ Exigent to him directed in that behalf unto the next term, so that reasonable means may be found to save the said Robert harmless; letting him weet that we have written to the said Sir Nichol for a convenient treaty to be taken in that behalf, as shall be thought according to right. And God have you ever in his keeping.

Written in our Manor of Mortlake, the 7th day of September:

² T. { ARCHBISHOP
of CANTERBURY.

Mortlake, in Surry,
7th of September,
Between 1455 and 1458.
34 and 37 H. VI.

¹ Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1454 to 1486, and Lord Chancellor from 1455 to 1457.
Autograph. Pl. I. N° 9.

LETTER LXII.

AFTER humble and due commendacion please it your gode maistership to understand that atte makying of this my pour lett^r. ther were no noveltees w^t. us but suche as yee understode full well afor yo^r. dep^ttyng Except the kyng woll in to Scotland in all man^r. wyse of werre and that my lord of Westshire shal be made Chaunceller I suppose the bett^r. is but a sclaunder and therefore be ye avised howe ye delyver theym as tidynges Also I wotte full well where j lefte you in suche matiers as it pleased you to make me of your Counsell as touchyng oon matier sp^ally and howe that ye said unto me whenne I desired your goode maistership to shewe favour in suche as ye best myght yf any thing shuld be shewed ad lumen my maister F. except and howe that ye answered and said as it pleased you that I was conquered in trouth that shuld preve but a full grete unstabulnes in me w^t. more &c. but f^r I p^ry you howe some ever my maister rekeneth w^t. any of his f^runts bring not the matier in revolution in the open Courte for and it were ones opened afore the Iuges howe that any l^re patentis shuld be p^rchased of an ante date And the defaute faunde in me ye wold be a m^l. tymes avised and my maister F. both or that ye wold amend me soo much as I shuld be appered therbe And therfor I besecche you be well

This Letter has no direction, and is only subscribed with the initials H. W. from the hand-writing however it appears to have been written by Henry Windsor, and by the contents we may discover it was addressed to J. Paston.

L E T T E R LXIX.

AFTER humble and due recommendation, please it your good mastership to understand, that at making of this my poor Letter there were no novelties with us, but such as ye understood full well afore your departing, except the King will into Scotland in all manner wise of war, and that my Lord of Wiltshire shall be made Chancellor, I suppose the better is but a slander, and therefore be ye advised how ye deliver them as tidings.

Also I weet full well where I left you in such matters as it pleased you to make me of your counsel, as touching one matter specially, and how that ye said unto me when I desired your good mastership to shew favour, such as ye best might if any thing should be shewed ad lumen, my Master F (*Fastolf*) except, and how that ye answered and said as it pleased you, that I was conquered, in truth that should prove but a full great unstableness in me with more, &c. But Sir, I pray you, how some-ever my Master reckoneth with any of his Servants, bring not the matter in revolution in the open Court, for and (*if*) it were once opened before the Judges, how that any Letters Patent should be purchased of an ante date, and the default found in me, ye would be a thousand times advised and my Master F. (*Fastolf*) both, ere that ye would amend me so much as I should be appeared (*impaired*) thereby; and therefore I beseech you be well advised how that matter be opened for my ease.

The character he gives of his Master Sir John Fastolf is not a very pleasing one, and from his saying that whatever is done, will "be called your dede," it appears to have been sent to J. Paston in the latter part of Sir John Fastolf's life, when his Cousin Paston transacted most of his business.

I was,

avised howe that matier be oponed for myn ease. I was not desired to write unto you of no on p'sone so god be my help yourself except But I wold ye wold take avise and counsell of the Preeft that hadde you soo long under hand on ¹ Shorthurſday whenne I and my feleſhip god thank you hadde of you right grete chere to our grete comfort and your grete Coſte. howe that the ſame Preeft underſtandeth this lett^r. of the Goſpell underwritten ² IHS. dixit Simoni Petro Si peccavit in te frat^r. tuus vade & corripe eum int^r. te & ip'm ſolum Si te audierit lucratus es frēm tuū Si autem te non audierit adhibe tecum adhuc unū vel duos ut in ore duor' vel triū testiū ſtet omē v'bum quod ſi non audierit dic ec'clie Si autem ec'cliam non audierit Sit tibi Sicut ethinicus & publicanus, &c. And in another place Tunc accedens Petrus ad IH'm dixit (Dñe) quotiens petevit in me frat^r. meus dimittam ei uſq; ſepties dicit illi IHS Non dico tibi uſq; ſepties ſet uſq; ſeptuageſies ſepties, my maiſt^r. can doo no thing the which ſhall come in open audience at theſe deies but it ſhalbe called your dede hit is not unknowon that cruell and vengible he hath byn ever and for the moſt parte w^t. aute pite and m'cy I can no more but vade & corripe eum for truly he cannot bryng about his matiers in this word for the word is not for hym I ſuppoſe it Wolnot chaunge yetts be likelenes but j beſeche you fir help not to amend hym onely by ev'y other man yf ye kno any mo myſſe diſpoſed I canno more but as I can or mey I ſhal be his S^runt and youres unto ſuch tyme as ye woll Comande me to ſurſeſe and leve of yf it pleaſe hym Sir I p'y you take

¹ Shere or Shore Thurſday, Maundy Thurſday, the day before Good Friday.

I was not desired to write unto you of no one person, so God be my help, yourself except; but I would ye would take advice and counsel of the Priest, that had you so long under hands on¹ Shor Thursday, when I and my fellowship, God thank you, had of you right great cheer to our great comfort and your great cost. How that the same Priest understandeth this Letter of the Gospel under written, ² Jesus dixit Simoni Petro, si peccavit in te frater tuus, vade et corripe eum inter te et ipsum solum; si te audierit lucratus es fratrem tuum, si autem te non audierit adhibe tecum adhuc unum vel duos, ut in ore duorum vel trium testium stet omne verbum. Quod si non audierit, dic ecclesiæ, si autem ecclesiam non audierit sit tibi sicut ethnicus et Publicanus, &c.” And in another place “Tunc accedens Petrus ad Jesum dixit, Domine quotiens petevit (*quoties peccabit*) in me frater meus, dimittam ei usque septies? Dicit illi Jesus, non dico tibi usque septies, sed usque septuagesies septies.”

My Master can do nothing, the which shall come in open audience at these days, but it shall be called your deed, and it is not unknown that cruel and vengible (*revengeful*) he hath been ever and for the most part without pity and mercy, I can no more, but “vade et corripe eum” for truly he cannot bring about his matters in this word (*world*) for the word (*world*) is not for him, I suppose it will not change yet by likeness, but I beseech you Sir, help not to amend him only, but every other man, if ye know any more misdisposed.

I can no more, but as I can or may shall be his servant and yours unto such time as ye will command me to surcease and leave off, if it please him.

² St. Matthew's Gospel, Chap. xviii. v. 15, 16, 17, and y. 21, 22.

this ³ Copy of your statute it is not examined be me for I found hit thise v yeres pessed Writan in my ⁴ slepyng tyme at after none on Wytsonday Also Sir yf I have reherfed wyttyngly the text of the Gospell syngularly unto your maist^rship I beseeche you to be had excused.

Your own,

H. W.

12 by 9 1.

³ This relates to papers sent with this Letter, and accounts for there being no direction, as the whole was enclosed in a parcel.

⁴ We are here made acquainted with the custom of H. Windsor, of sleeping after dinner at afternoon; perhaps as the hours of rising were early, it might be usual for people.

LETTER LXX.

*To my right honorabull
and right wurshipful lord
my lord Viscont.*

Beaumont.

RIGHT honorabull and my right wurshipfull lord I recoāund me unto yo^r gode lordship with all my s^rvice ev^rmere def^reng to here of yo^r p^rsp^rite and Welfare the which I p^ry god encreas and cōtynue to his plesur and aft^r yo^r oone.

To us who live in these days those lawless proceedings seem terrible, but in the tumultuous times here treated of, such occurrences were too frequent; and the period here exhibited, distracted by civil dissensions, made them still more common.

This Letter must have been written between 1455, 33 H. VI. and 1460. 39 H. VI.

herts

Sir, I pray you take this ³ Copy of your Statute, it is not examined by me, for I found it these five years passed.

Written in my ⁴ sleeping time, at afternoon, on Whitsunday. Also, Sir I have rehearsed wittingly the text of the Gospel singularly unto your mastership, I beseech you to be had excused.

Your own,

⁵ HENRY WINDSOR.

Whitsunday,

May or June,

Between 1455 and 1459.

33 and 38 H. VI.

people in general to do so, as it is still practised in the families of many early rising farmers, &c.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. III. No 32.

L E T T E R LXX.

*To my right honourable and right worshipful Lord, my Lord
Viscount ¹ Beaumont.*

RIGHT honourable and my right worshipful Lord, I commend me unto your good Lordship with all my service, ever more desiring to hear of your prosperity and welfare, the which I pray God encrease and continue to his pleasure, and

¹ John Beaumont was created Viscount Beaumont in 1439, and was killed in the battle of Northampton in 1460.

herts desire thankynge you of the gode lordship y^t ye have shewed me at all tymes beseching you alway of gode cōtynuance plesid yo^r gode lordship to be remembred how afore this tyme hugh Wythom hath said he wold be in rest and peepe w^t me and not to maligne agayn me oy^rwise yan lawe and right wold that notwithstanding upon Munday last past he and iij men w^t hī come unto a f^runt hous of myn in boston cald Williā Shirref and y^as he sete at his werke stroke him upon the hede and in the body with a Dagg^r and Wondet him fore and pulled him out of his hous and fet him in p^rson w^tout any cause resonabull or w^tout Writ or any oy^r p^rcesse shewid unto him and y^t me femes longs not for hī to do bot as he says he is endited and as yo^r gode lordship knawes wele J and all my f^runts are in like wise bot and any man shuld have done hit it longs either to the Shirref or to yo^r baliff as I conceyve and oy^r cause he had non to him as fer as I kan knawe bot awnly for the maliffiouness y^t he hath unto me ne I kan think non oy^r bot it is so. and now yistre nyght my lord Welles come to boston w^t iiij^{xx} horses and in y^e mornynge foloyng toke hym out of p^rson saying afore all peepl^l fals thefe y^u shal be hanged and as mony of thy maistre men as may be gotten as yo^r f^runt John Abbot kan report unto yo^r gode lordship and hath taken him away with him to Tatefall what to do w^t him I kan not say bot as I suppose to have him to lincoln Castell Wherfore I besech yo^r gode lordship in yis mat^r to be my gode lord and it please yo^r gode lordship to write a lett^r.

to

after your own heart's desire; and thanking you of the good Lordship that ye have shewed me at all times, beseeching you alway of good continuance.

Please it your good Lordship to be remembered how afore this time Hugh Wytham hath said he would be in rest and peace with me, and not to malign against me, otherwise than law and right would; that notwithstanding, upon Monday last past, he and three men with him came into a servant's house of mine in Boston, called William Sheriff, and there as he sat at his work struck him upon the head, and in the body with a dagger, and wounded him fore, and pulled him out of his house, and set him in prison without any cause reasonable, or without writ, or any other process shewed unto him; and that me seems longs (*belongs*) not for him to do, but as he says he is indicted, and as your good Lordship knows well, I and all my servants are in like wise, but and any man should have done it, it longs either to the Sheriff or to your Bailiff, as I conceive, and other cause he had none to him as far as I can know, but only for the maliciousness of that he hath unto me, nor I can think none other but it is so. And now yester night my Lord Welles came to Boston with four score horses, and in the morning following, took him out of prison, saying afore all people "false thief thou shalt be hanged, and as many of thy master's men as may be gotten," as your servant John Abbot can report unto your good Lordship, and hath taken him away with him to Tattershall, what to do with him I cannot say, but as I suppose to have him to Lincoln Castle; wherefore I beseech your good Lordship in this matter to be my good Lord, and that it please your good Lordship to write

to the kep'e of the Castell of lincoln y^t it liked him to deliv^r him out of p^rson undre a sufficient seurety had for him for and thai may kepe him still be yis meyne yai may take all the f^runts y^t I have and so I may do agayn in like wise And also as I am enfor^med w^tout he be had out of p^rson in hast it will be right gravewis to hⁱ to heile of his hurt he is so fore streken and if y['] be any f^rvice y^t yo^r gode lordship will cōaund me to do in any cuntre plesid you to send me word and it shal be done to my power w^t the g^rce of god which have you my right honorabull and wurshipfull lord alway in his bleffid kepyng Writen at Kyme upon Wednesday next aft^r our ladi day the Assumpcion.

Also plesid yo^r gode lordship to wit aft^r yis lett^r. was made y^r come a man fro Tatefall. into my fenne which og^h me gode will and be cause he wold not be holden suspect he speke w^t women which were mylkand k^ye and bad yeme goo to a preest of myn to Dokdike and bid him fast goo gif me warnyng how y^t my lord ² Wilughby my lord ³ Cromwell and my lord ⁴ Welles p^rposid yeme to set a sessions and hang y^e said Williā Shirref and yai myght bryng y['] entent abowte and so as I and yo^r f^runt Iohn Abbot stode to ged^r y^e preest Come and gaf me Warnyng herof Which I trust for my worship yo^r gode lordship wold not shuld happen for it wer to me the grettest shame y^t myght falle bot and it plese yo^r gode lordship to write to all yo^r f^runts in yis Cuntr['] yat yai will be redy upon a day Warnyng to come when I send

² Richard Welles, a son of Lionel, Lord Welles, married Joanna, daughter and heir to Robert Lord Willoughby, in whose right he was, in 1455, summoned to parliament as Lord Willoughby, of Eresby.

write a Letter to the keeper of the Castle of Lincoln, that it liked him to deliver him out of prison under a sufficient surety had for him, for and (*if*) they may keep him still by this mean they may take all the servants that I have, and so I may do again in like wise.

And also as I am informed without he be had out of prison in haste, it will be right grievous to him to heal of his hurt, he is so fore stricken; and if there be any service that your good Lordship will command me to do in any country, please it you to send me word, and it shall be done to my power with the grace of God, which have you my right honourable and worshipful Lord alway in his blessed keeping. Written at Kyme, upon Wednesday next after our Lady's day, the Assumption, (15th August.)

Also, please it your good Lordship to weet after this Letter was made there came a man from Tattershall, unto my fenn, which ought me good will, and because he would not be holden suspect, he spake with women which were milking kyne, and bad them go to a Priest of mine to Dokdyke, and bid him fast go give me warning, how that my Lord ² Willoughby, my ³ Lord Cromwell, and my Lord ⁴ Welles proposed then to set a Sessions, and hang the said William Sheriff, and they might bring the intent about; and so, as I and your servant John Abbot stood together, the Priest came and gave me warning hereof, which I trust for my worship your good Lordship would not should happen, for it were to me the greatest shame that might fall, but, and it please your good Lordship to write to all your servants in this country, that they will be ready upon a day's warning to

² This I think must be Henry Lord Cromwell.

⁴ Lionel Lord Welles, fell in the battle of Towton, in 1461.

yeme word. I trust to god yai shal not hang him agayn the lawe bot I w^t help of yo^r gode lordship shal be abull to let hit.

By yo^r S^rvūt,

Willia^r Tailboys.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Who the writer William Talboys was I have not been able to make out, but it is plain by his requesting the attendance of Lord Beaumont's servants, &c. that he meant to

LETTER LXXI.

*To my rith w^rshepfull
hosbond Ion Paston.*

RITH worchipfull hosbond I recōmawnd me to yow prayīg you to wete that ther is a gret noyse in y^{is} town y^t my lord of oxforth and yelv^rton and ye ben endytid in Kent for mayntenynge of ye ^roy^r det^rmyn^r and Ion Dame is endytyd yer also of trefon be cawse y^t he dede Heydon endytyn of Trefon for takyng down of ye quart^r of the man And the pepyll y^t ben ayens Ser thomas Todenham and Heydon ben fore aferd be

This Letter shews the terrible effects of civil commotions to individuals, who rise or fall as their party gains or loses any advantage.

This Earl of Oxford and Sir Thomas Todenham were afterwards beheaded in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV.

cawse

come when I send them word; I trust to God they shall not hang him against the law, but I, with help of your good Lordship, shall be able to let it.

By your Servant,

WILLIAM TAILBOYS.

Kyme, in Lincolnshire,

Wednesday, August.

Between 1455 and 1460. 33 and 39 H. VI.

to repel force by force, and to rescue his servant from a violent death, if he should be so fortunate as to overcome his adversaries. Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 19.

L E T T E R LXXI.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that there is a great noise in this town, that my Lord of Oxford and Yelverton and ye be endited in Kent for maintaining of the Oyer and Determiner, and John Damme is indited there also of treason, because that he did Heydon inditen of treason for taking down of the quarter of the man; and the people that be against Sir Thomas Todenham, and Heydon be fore afraid because of this noise, and of other

¹ A Commission of Oyer and Terminer is the largest of the five Commissions by which our Judges of Assize now sit in their several Circuits. It was wont in former times to be only in use upon some sudden outrage or insurrection in any place.

cawse of yis noyse and of oy^r langage that is had boye in y^{is} town
and in ye contr' y^e yese seyde todenh'm and Heydon shuld ben as
well at ese and have as gr'tt rewill as ev^r they hadde Iamys
Gloys tellith me y^e he hath sent yow word of Heydonys hors
and of oy^r thyngs mor of whiche I was purposed to asent yow
word of The holy t'nyte have yow in kepyng Wretyn at Nor-
wiche the Weddenysday next after Seynt Mathy.

Yowris,

Ms. B.

8 1/2 by 3 1/2.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal, a Fleur de lys. Pl. xxiii. N° 7.

LETTER LXXII.

*To my Right worshipfull
Cosyn John Paston esquier.*

RYGH^T worshippfull and enterly belovyd Cosyn I comaund
me to yow hertyly Latyng yow wete that there ys a con-
traverfie mevyd be twix my Cosyn Iohn Radecliff of attyl-
burgh and me for the Advoweson of the chirch of Attylburgh
the whch ys new voide wheroff the title is myn veryly as god
knowith the whch shall be oppenyd unto yow And upon Thurs-
day next atte Wymondh'm there shall be take an enquerre de

^o It appears that Lady Ogard's Cousin and Counsel assisted her to good purpose, for on the 2d of August, 1456, we find that Master Thomas Fairclowe, D. D. was presented by her to the Church of Attleborough.

jure

language that is had both in this town and in the country, that these said Todenham and Heydon should be as well at ease, and have as great rule as ever they had.

James Gloys telleth me, that he hath sent you word of Heydon's horse (*whores q?*) and of other things, more of which I was purposed to asent (*have sent*) you word of. The holy Trinity have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, the Wednesday next after Saint Mathias.

Yours,

* MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,

Wednesday, February,

Between 1455 and 1460. 34 and 39 H. VI.

L E T T E R LXXII.

To my right worshipful Cousin, John Paston, Esq.

RIGHT worshipful and entirely beloved Cousin, I commend me to you heartily, letting you weet, that there is a controversy moved betwixt my Cousin ¹ John Radcliff, of Attleborough, and me for the Advowson of the church of Attleborough, the which is now void, whereof the title is mine verily as God knoweth, the which shall be opened unto you, and upon Thursday next, at Wymondham, there shall be taken an En-

¹ John Radcliff, Esq. married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Walter Lord Fitz Walter; he was in her right called Lord Fitz Walter, and was killed at Ferrybridge, in 1460.

jure patronatus afore ² Mastr Robert Popy And Mastr Symond Thornh'm atte which day j may nought be my selff as god knowyth And thow j myght yt were not convenyent And therefore ryght trusty Cosyn confideryng that j am a wedowe impotent as of body tendyrly and hertily j pray you yf yt lyke yow to be there assistyng my Councell in my Right as reson and lawe wille upon thursday next be viij of the klokke And ³ Fynch'm Spelman and othir of my Councell shall be than there waytyng upon yow And jentyll Cosyn have me excused thowh j wryte thus bresly and homly to yow for in trouth j do it of a synguler trust and affection the wheche j have in yow confideryng the goode nome and Fame of trouth wysdom and good conducte the which j here of you And therfor and ye may to youre well j besече you hertyly to be there And ye shall nought lese therby with the grace of almyghty jhu the wheche evyr preserve and promote you gentill Cosyn in moche worship to youre hertys ease Atte Bokenh'm Castell on teuyfday in Pache weke in hast

⁴ D. N. Ogard.

12 by 6 3/4.

Paper Mark,

Cap and Fleur de lys.

Pl. VIII. N° 4.

² These were Civilians and Officers belonging to the Bishop's Court.

³ Simeon Fincham, of Fincham, Esq. his Son John married Agnes, Daughter of John Spelman, of Beckerton, Esq. I suppose the person here mentioned, he died in 1460, and Simeon in 1458.

LET

quiry de jure Patronatûs, afore ² Master Robert Popy and Master Simon Thornham, at which day I may nought be myself as God knoweth, and though I might, it were not convenient (*q? becoming*). And therefore, right trusty Cousin, considering that I am a Widow impotent as of body, tenderly and heartily I pray you, if it like You to be there assisting my Counsel in my right, as reason and law will upon Thursday next by eight of the clock, and ³ Fincham, Spelman, and other of my counsel shall be then there waiting upon you; and gentle Cousin have me excused, though I write thus briefly and homely to you, for in truth I do it of a singular trust and affection the which I have for you, considering the good name and fame of truth, wisdom, and good conduct, the which I hear of you. And therefore and (*if*) ye may to your weal, I beseech you heartily to be there, and ye shall nought lose thereby with the grace of Almighty Jesu, the which ever preserve and promote you, gentle Cousin, in much worship to your heart's ease. At Bokenham Castle, on Tuesday in Pasche Week, in haste.

⁴ DAME ALICE OGARD.

Bokenhem,
Easter Tuesday, 30 March,
1456, 34 H. VI.

⁴ Dame Alice Ogard was the Widow of Sir Andrew Ogard, Knt. whose first wife was Margaret, the Daughter of Sir John Clifton, Knt. of Bokenhem Castle. He died in 1454, and Alice, his relict, in 1460.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 20.

⁵ The Character here given of John Paston is such as places him in a very advantageous point of view.

L E T.

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Maistr Paston.

PLEASE you to wete that aft^r dew recōmendacon hyt ys so that my Maistr sendyth me to london for the mat^r of Rochestr as for dyu's of hys oun^e p^rtic^ler maters which concern not the lawe, &c. And I am lyke to tarye ther till ye com in case ye com wythynne iij wekys. S^r at Reu^ence of god s^eth my maistr ys fully yn wille to renew hys fefm^t that it may be do be tyme by the surest grounde that may be had for be it nevyr so fuerly don hyt shall be thought lytille ynowgh to kepe hys lond owte of trouble And to spare for no counsell ne cost to make sure for A peny yn s^eson spent wille save a p^ounde I comyned w^t my broyd^r Spyrlyng which seyth he wille do hys attend^unce and to kepe it ryzt close of the ¹ namys taryeng drawyth parell And ye meved Agode mater to the p^rson and to me at yo^r last beyng at Castr that my maistr shud be lerned whate hys housfold standyth uppon yerlye s^eth he kept it holye to ghedr at one place And that don then to see by the Revenues of hys yerly lyfelode whate may be leyd and Assigned owte for that cause to meyn^teyn hys seyde housfold And over that whate may be assigned to beere owte hys ² p^lees And also do pay for hys foreyn charges

The Feoffment, which Botoner appears so anxious about, most probably concerned those lands which Sir John Fastolf intended to devote to charitable uses, as the founding of his College, &c.

From the management of his Accounts we see the manner in which the affairs of the Great

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Master Paston.

PLEASE you to weet that, after due recommendation, it is so that my Master sendeth me to London for the matter of Rochester as (*well as*) for divers of his own particular matters which concern not the law, &c. And I am like to tarry there till ye come, in case ye come within three weeks.

Sir, at reverence of God seth (*since*) my Master is fully in will to renew his feoffment, (*take care*) that it may be done by time by the surest ground that may be had, for, be it never so surely done, it shall be thought little enough to keep his land out of trouble; and to spare for no counfel nor cost to make it sure, for a Penny in season spent will save a Pound.

I communed with my brother Spyrlling, which sayeth he will do his attendance, and to keep it right close of the ^r names, tarrying draweth peril.

And ye moved a good matter to the Parson and to me at your last being at Caister, that my Master should be learned (*informed*) what his household standeth upon yearly, since he kept it together wholly at one place; and that done, then to see by the Revenues of his yearly livelihood what may be laid and assigned out for that cause to maintain his said household, and over that, what may be assigned to bear out his ² Pleas; and also to pay

Great Men of the time were conducted, and the method here proposed seems the best that could be contrived for bringing back his Auditors to their accustomed exactness.

¹ Of the Trustees named in the feoffment I suppose.

² His Law business.

3 charges and dedes of Almes to A conuenient ſome And ſeth the grettist ordynarye charge moſt be hys houſold kepyng hyt were moſte exſpedyent that ye wold note well to remēbre ſpecially my maiſt^r to do hys Audytes caſt up and make rollys of hys Accompts concⁿyng the ſeyd houſold ſeth he came yn to Norff^r thys ij yer and half Whych was nevyr ſo long to doo thys xl wynter as ye now. And it y^s pytee that hys Audyt ys none ethyr wyſe yn that entended ye muſt nedys yff ye wille my maiſt^r know how hyt ſtand w^t hym yerly of hys charges that thys be do fyrſt as it was allwey acuſtomed my maiſt^r wille acord it to be don but it ys forgete throwgh negligence of men yoven to ſenſualite as Tho's Upton me and othyr my maiſt^r can not know whede^r he go backward or forw^rd till thys be doon I can not ell but ye wille not foryete thys that the Audytes go verrailly aboute it to An ende And Haylyſdon Accōpts be behynde for ij yeer to grete pite ys and it wer yours or yn any wyſeman gouu'n'ce at Norw^r haſtly the Wenſday in Eſt weke.

4 Botoſpner.

11 1/4 by 5 1/2.

3 Charges not connected with his houſhold Accounts.

UCC

for his foreign³ Charges, and Deeds of Alms to a convenient sum.

And since the greatest ordinary charge must be his household keeping, it were most expedient that ye would note well to remember specially my Master to do (*cause*) his Auditors (*to*) cast up and make Rolls of his Accounts concerning the said household since he came into Norfolk these two years and half, which was never so long to do these forty winters, as ye know; and it is pity that his Audit is none otherwise in that intended; ye must needs, if ye will my Master know how it stand with him yearly of his charges, that this be done first, as it was always accustomed; my Master will accord it to be done, but it is forgotten through negligence of men given to sensuality, as Thomas Upton, me, and others; my Master cannot know whether he go backward or forward till this be done.

I can not (*nought*) else, but ye will not forget this, that the Auditors go verily about it to amend; and Heylesdon Accounts be behind hand for two years to great pity is, and it were (*I wish it were*) yours, or in any wise man's governance. At Norwich hastily, the Wednesday in Easter week.

† BOTHRNER.

Norwich,
Wednesday in Easter Week,
31 March, 1456. 34 H. VI.

† Autograph. Pl. II. N° 23.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

*To the Ryght Worsbyfull Sr
John Paston Escuier beyng
in Norwych yn haste.*

RYGH T worshypfull Sr aftyr dewe recōmendacon please yow to wete that I wrote A remēbr'unce to yow the day that j departed owte of Norw^e by Rych'rd the p'son ys f'v'nt of Blofeld concernyng c'teyn maters to be remēbred by your wysdom for my maist' ys avaylle whych your grete wysdom can well undrestand ys ryght nedefull as one thyng yn especiall that Shypdā and Spyrlyng ought to labour fyrst of onye thyng that belongyth to Audyt the Accompts of the resseyt and despens' of my maist' housfold at Castr seth he came last in to Norff' whych aswell for the p'visyons that ys had of hys oune grownyng as in money payd for till the seyde Accōpts be made ordynatlye whych be of A grete charge yeerlye Wete ye for certeyn my maist' shall nev'e know Whethyr he goth bakward or forward. And manye oy'e Accomptants that maken lyv'e of p'visyons of cornys and catell to the household by the resseyvo^r and by the bayllyfs can not Approve theyr liberatz just tille the seyde housfold bokes be made upp And seth it hath be kept ordynarylye seth my maist'

We have in this Letter a continuation of Botoner's advice concerning the management of Sir John Fastolf's affairs at Caister, &c. and proper methods proposed for remedying them.

He seems to think that Sir John Fastolf was a considerable loser by concerning himself with ships, and in merchandize, &c. and hints that his corn and wool might be turned to better account than exchanged for wares at Yarmouth.

begen.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

*To the right worshipful Sir, John Paston, Esquire, being in
Norwich, in haste.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir, after due recommendation, please you to weet that I wrote a remembrance to you the day that I departed out of Norwich, by Richard, the Parson's servant of Blofield, concerning certain matters to be remembered by your wisdom for my Master's avail, which your great wisdom can well understand is right needful, as one thing in especial, that Shipdham and Spyrlyng ought to labour, first of any thing that belongeth, to audit the accounts of the Receipts and Dispenfes (*Disbursements*) of my Master's household in Caister, since he came last into Norfolk, which as well for the provisions that is had of his own growing as in money paid; for till the said Accounts be made ordinately (*methodically*), which be of a great charge yearly, weet ye for certain my Master shall never know whether he goeth backward or forward; and many other Accomptants that maken livery (*make delivery*) of provisions of Corns and Cattle to the household by the Receiver and by the Bailiffs cannot approve their Liberates just, till the said household Books be made up; and since it hath been kept ordinarily

The second part of this Letter which concerns political matters seems to refer to the year 1456, when the King was again under the management of the Queen and her party. The King and his Friends were now at Herford (Hereford I suppose it means) enquiring after, and punishing those who had joined the Duke of York's army raised in Wales.

begen to kepe houe thys 1 yeer almoſte And when he hath be
 abſent beyond ſee, &c. hyt ought to be more redelyer be doon
 and made upp whyle he is p'ſent and well the ray'e that hys
 houſold menye were not ſo hole to ghedr thys xl yer as be now
 at Caſtr. Alſo hyz minuſtrs of Accompts of hys chieff maner of
 haylyſdon for iij yeer to make upp and to examyn And I enſure
 yow full ſimplye Approwed hys Wollys and hys fermys And the
 iij^d ys that ſo wold Ihs my maiſt' Audyto's wold faythfully and
 playnlye enforme my maiſtr of the trouth of the yeerly grete
 damage he beryth in deburſyng hys money Aboute Shypp' and
 botes kepyng An houe up at Jermuch to hys grete harme and
 reſſeyvyth but chaffr and waare for hys cornys and wollys, &c.
 and then moſt Abyde Along day to make money of ſuch chaffr
 takyng he ſhall neide be monyed ne be Aunſuerd clerly of hys
 Revenues yeerly but thoſe thyngs Aboſeſeyd be Amended be
 tyme yn lowys days xij yeer to gheder my maiſtr was wont to
 ley upp money yeerly at london and Caſtr and now the contr'ye
 de malo ī pejus I dar not be know of thys bille but ye may
 queſtion and vele of the diſpoſicon of thys maters of oy'es and
 thē undrſtand yff I wryt juſtlye or no and ye as of your mocon
 for my maiſtr worſhup and p'fyt exortyng hē the ſtuard Shypdā
 and Spyrllyng to take a labo^r and A peyn that thys be reformed
 I pr'y yow and r'qr yow kepe thys mat' to yo^r ſylf.

Yor.

Botoner.

As

since my Master began to keep house this fifty year almost, and when he hath been absent beyond sea, &c. it ought (*to*) be more readilier done and made up while he is present, and well the rather that his household meny (*Family*) were not so whole together this forty year as be now at Caister. Also his ministers of Accounts (*minutes or first draughts*) of his chief manor of Heylesdon for three years to make up and to examine; and I assure you full simply approved his Wools and his Farms.

And the third is, that so would Jesu my Master's Auditors would faithfully and plainly inform my Master of the truth of the yearly great damage he beareth in disbursing his money about Shipping and Boats, keeping an house up at Yarmouth to his great harm, and receiveth but chaffer and ware for his corns and wools, &c. And then must abide a long day to make money, of such chaffer taking he shall never be monied, nor be answered clearly of his revenues yearly, but (*unless*) those things above said be amended betimes. In Lewis's days twelve years together my Master was wont to lay up money yearly at London and Caister, and now the contrary, *de malo in pejus*.

I dare not be known of this bill, but ye may question and vele (*feel*) of the disposition of these matters of others, and then understand if I write justly or no; and ye, as of your motion, for my Master's worship and profit, exhorting him, the Steward, Shipdham, and Spyrling to take a labour and a pain that this be reformed.

I pray you and require you (*to*) keep this matter to yourself.

Your,

BOTONER.

As

As for nouvelles none comth but y^e ys feyd the Sege shall com to Calix the Erle of ¹ W'rwyk ys yhyt at Caunt'bury wth the ² Archbyship and the Erle yong^r ³ broy'e maryed to S^r Ead' Yngylthorp dought^r uppon seyt M'rks day. the Erle of ⁴ Worcester broght Aboute the maryage. the Queen and the kyng at ⁵ Herford the lordes ⁶ Bokyngh'm ⁷ Shrewsbury and oy'es ther And now it ys feyd ⁸ Herbert shall com ynne And Apper at Leyc^r before the kyg and the lordes hys lyfe gr'unted and godes so he make Amendys to theym he hath offended. Manye be endyted som causelese wh^c makyth Herbert partye streng And the burgeys and gentlemen Aboute Herford wille goo wyth the kyng Wyffe and chylde but A pease be made or the kyng part thens for ell Herbert and hys Affinite wille acquyt thē as it ys feyd the Erle of Warwyk hath had the folks of Caunt'bury And Sandwy^c before hym and thanked hem of her gode herts and vytaillyng of Calix and p'yeth hem of Contynuce. I fende A bille of the namys endyted to my maist^r and yow to see and laugh at theyr Wellsh names descended of old pedegris Our lord be wth yow wryt hastily at londō the fyrst day of May.

⁹ Botoner.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4.

¹ Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

² Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor.

³ John Neville, afterwards Marquis Montague, married Isabel, daughter and heir of Sir Edmund Ingoldesthorpe, of Burgh Green, in Cambridgeshire, by his wife Jane, Sister, and at length co-heir of John Lord Tiptoft, first Earl of Worcester. He was slain in the battle of Barnet, in 1471.

⁴ John Tiptoft was created Earl of Worcester in 1449, and in Edward IVth's reign elected a Knight of the Garter: during that King's deposition in 1470, the Earl of Warwick obtained in Parliament that Worcester should be beheaded.

⁵ This must mean Hereford.

⁶ Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, killed at the battle of Northampton, in 1460.

LET

As for novelties none cometh, but it is said the siege shall come to Calais; the Earl of ¹ Warwick is yet at Canterbury with the ² Archbishop, and the Earl's younger ³ Brother is married to Sir Edmund Inglethorpe's daughter upon Saint Mark's day, the Earl of ⁴ Worcester brought about the marriage; the Queen and the King at ⁵ Herford, the Lords ⁶ Buckingham, ⁷ Shrewsbury and others there; and now it is said ⁸ Herbert shall come in, and appear at Leicester before the King and the Lords, his life granted and goods, so he make amends to them he hath offended; many be indicted, some causelessly, which maketh Herbert's party stronger, and the Burgeses and Gentlemen about Herford will go with the King wife and child; but (*unless*) a peace be made ere the King part thence, for else Herbert and his affinity will acquit them, as it is said.

The Earl of Warwick hath had the folks of Canterbury and Sandwich before him, and thanked them of their good hearts, and victualling of Calais, and prayeth them of continuance.

I send a bill of the names indicted, to my Master and you, to see and laugh at their Welsh names descended of old pedigrees. Our Lord be with you; written hastily at London, the first day of May.

⁹ BOTONER.

London, Saturday, 1st of May,

1456. 34 H. VI.

⁷ John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, he was Lord Treasurer, and fell at the battle of Northampton. Æt. 49.

⁸ Sir William Herbert, knight, had greatly assisted the Duke of York in raising forces, and ever continuing a steady Yorkist, often contended against the Lancastrians; he was afterwards deservedly in favour with Edward IV. and by him was created Earl of Pembroke; he was taken prisoner at the battle of Banbury, in 1469, and beheaded by the Rebels.

⁹ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 24, the first part of it.

On the back of the Letter is written in an ancient hand. "A l're of W. Botoner als Wyrcestr shewing y^t his M^c. had kept howse 1 yere."

LETTER LXXV.

*To Iohn Paston
dwellyn in the inder
in of the Tempyll att
london be thys lettr
delyuerd in hast.*

SON I grete yow and Send yow godds Blyssyng and myn
and as for my doughtyr yo^r Wyfe Che faryt well Blyssyd
be god as a woman in hyr plyte may do and all yo^r Sonys and
doughtrys and for as meche as ye wyll Send me no tydyngs I
send yow seche as ben in thys Contre Rychard Lynsted Cam
thys day fro ¹ Paston and letyt me Wete that on saturday last
past Dravale halfe brother to Waryn Harman was takyn w^t
Enemyis Walkyn be the Se Syde and haue hym forthe w^t hem
and they tokyn ij ² pylgremys a man and a woman and they
Robbyd the woman and lete hyr gon and ledde the man to the
see and whan they knew he was a pylgreme they geffe hym
monej and sett hym ageyn on the lond and they haue thys weke
takyn iiij vesselys of Wyntyrton and Happyfborough and Ecles
men ben fore aferd for takyn of me for ther ben X grete vesse-
lys of the Enemyis god yeue g'ce that the See may be better
kepte than it is now or ellys it chall ben a perlyous dwellyng be

At a time when the kingdom was in a state of constant alarm from the civil conten-
tions between the White and Red Roses, it is not to be wondered at that the Coasts
were neglected, and that the enemies of England took advantage of this neglect by pil-
laging the inhabitants near the shores. These coasts were likewise exposed to the enemy
in 1449, see Vol. i. Letter VIII. p. 31.

the

L E T T E R LXXV.

To John Paston, dwelling in the Inner Inn of the Temple, at London, be this Letter delivered in haste.

SON, I greet you, and send you God's blessing and mine; as for my daughter your wife she fareth well, blessed be God! as a woman in her plight may do, and all your Sons and Daughters.

And for as much as ye will send me no tidings, I send you such as be in this Country; Richard Lynsted came this day from ¹ Paston and let me weet, that on Saturday last past, Dravell, half-brother to Warren Harman, was taken with enemies, walking by the Sea side, and (*they*) have him forth with them, and they took two ² Pilgrims, a man and a woman, and they robbed the woman and let her go, and led the man to the Sea; and when they knew he was a Pilgrim they gave him money, and set him again on the land; and they have this week taken four Vessels off Winterton, and Happisborough and Eccles.

Men be fore afraid for taking of me, for there be ten great Vessels of the Enemy's; God give grace that the sea may be better kept than it is now, or else it shall be a perilous dwelling by the sea coast.

¹ Paston is situated exactly on the north-east point of the Norfolk coast.

² We have here an instance of the respect paid, even by the enemies of this kingdom, to pilgrims; for we find as soon as the man carried aboard the ships, was known by the commander to be on pilgrimage he was dismissed, and set on shore with money in his pocket, which probably might be given to him, as a recompence for what the sailors had taken from the woman on shore, or to defray the expences of his pilgrimage.

the Se Cost I p'y yow grete well yo^r. Brethyne and sey hem
that I send hem godd's blyssyn and myn and sey Williā that if
jenett Lauton be not payd for the Krymson Cort wheche Alson
³ Crane wrote to hyr for in hyr owyn name that than he pay
hyr and see Alson Cranys name strekyn owt of hyr boke for Che
fejthe Che wyll aske no man the money butt Alson Crane And
I p'y yow that ye wyll Remembr the lett^r that I sent yow last
and god be w^t yow Wretyn att Norwyche the Wedenesday next
before Sent Gregory.

* **Mugnes Paston.**

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Seal octangular, the impressiō
imperfect; but it appears to
be the head of a king or royal
personage. Pl. xxiii. N^o 1.

Paper Mark,
An Anchor.
Pl. xxii. N^o 12.

³ This was probably a daughter of Robert Crane, of Stonham, in Suffolk.

The anecdotes in this Letter are curious, and worth preserving, as they strongly
mark the defenceless state of the kingdom, and point out the inattention of the govern-
ment

TEC=

I pray you greet well your brethren, and say (*tell*) them that I send them God's blessing and mine, and say William that if Janet Lauton be not paid for the Crimson Coat which Alson³ Crane wrote to her for in her own name, that then he pay her, and see Alson Crane's name stricken out of her book, for the faith she will ask no man the money but Alson Crane. And I pray you that ye will remember the Letter that I sent you last, and God be with you.

Written at Norwich, the Wednesday next before Saint Gregory (12th March.)

By your Mother,

⁴ AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,

Wednesday, 8th of March,

1457-8. 36 H. VI.

ment to naval affairs. I think I have fixed the date of this Letter properly, but I may be wrong.

⁴Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 19.

R. r. 2

LET-

LETTER LXXVJ.

*To my Ryght reverent and
Worchepful Master John Paston
be this delyverid.*

PLEASE it yo^r Masterchep to wete that I haue spoke wy^t the Shereff at hese placez mevyng to hym as for that that was left wy^t hese under Shereff it is yo^r wyl he shuld send a man of hese for it for thow it were more ye wold gladly he shuld take it he thanked yow and sayde hese under shereff was at london And hymselff had non deserved and if he had he wold a take it And whan I departyd from hym I desyerid hym a yen to send therffore and than he seyde it shuld abyde tyl ye come hom wherby I Conceyve he wold haue it and be gladde to take it Moreover I remembred hym of hese p^rmyses made before to yow at London when he took hese oth and charche and that ye were wy^t hym when he toke hese oth and oder dyuers tymes And for tho p^rmyses made be hym to yow at that tyme and other tymes at the oyer determyner at lynne ye p^rposed yow be the trust
that

I have given this long Letter to shew the means used to tamper with Sheriffs and Undersheriffs that Juries might be returned favourable to the cause of those who had influenced the Returning Officer; this conversation is a very curious one, and exhibits care, caution, and finesse on both sides.

We are happy in living in times, when neither the Crown improperly interferes in matters of trial by jury, nor are any of our Sheriffs in this age, ever accused of packing a jury to oblige particular parties. The stream of Justice runs pure and clear, may it ever continue so!

This Letter was most probably written between the years 1457 and 1460, (see Letters XLVIII. and XLIX. Vol. i. p. 190, 192.) as Lord Molyns was a Lancastrian, and beheaded

L E T T E R LXXVI.

*To my right reverend and worshipful Master, John Paston,
be this delivered.*

PLEASE it your mastership to weet, that I have spoken with the Sheriff at his place, moving to him, as for that, that was left with his Undersheriff, it is your will he should send a man of his for it; for though it were more ye would gladly he should take it; he thanked you, and said his Undersheriff was at London, and himself had none deserved, and if he had he would have taken it. And when I departed from him I desired him again to send therefore, and then he said it should abide till ye came home, whereby I conceive he would have it, and be glad to take it. Moreover I remembered him of his promises made before to you at London, when he took his oath and charge, and that ye were with him when he took his oath, and other divers times; and for the promises made by him to you at that time, and other times at the Oyer Determiner at Lynn, ye proposed you by the trust that ye have in him for to attempt

beheaded early in the reign of Edward IV. when, from the Letters here referred to, it appears there were matters of property in dispute between this nobleman and J. Paston.

The Sheriffs for the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk for the following years, were for 1577 Richard Bothe, for 1458 Giles de Saintloe, 1459 William de Calthorpe, and 1460 Philip Wentworth; it was with one of these therefore that this conversation passed.

The manner in which our nobles travelled in this age, is here pointed out.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 21.

and

that ye haue in hym for to atempte and Rere Accions that shuld be to the Avayle of hym And of hese office he wold a know what the accions shuld be J sayde I coude not telle hym And than he Seyde he wold do for yow that he may excepte for the aquitell of the Lord Molyns men in so meche as the Kyng hath wrete to hym for to shewe favo^r to the lord Molyns and hese men And as he Seyth the indytement longyth to the Kyng and not to yow And the lord Molyns a gret Lord also as he Seyth now late the lord Mol' hath sent hym a letter and my lord of Norff' anoder for to shew favo^r in these indytements he darnot abyde the joporte of that that he shuld offende the Kynges comaundment he know not how the Kyng may be informed of hym and what shal be seyde to hym And than I sayde as for any joporte that he shuld abyde in any thyng that he doth for yow or be yo^r desyre ye haue offered hym And wol p'formet sufficient sewerte for to sawe hym harmeles and therefore I supposid ther wold non resonable man thynk but that he myght do for yow wy^t owte any joporte And then he seyde he myth non sewerte take that passid C li. And the lord Mol' is a gret lord he myght soon cause hym to lese that and meche mo Than I sayde be that meane in defawte of a Shereff every man may be put from hese lyvelod. And thann he seyde iff it were for the lyvelode men wold take hem the nerer for to abyde a Joporte but be hese feyth as he swore if the Kyng wryte ayan to hym he wol no lenger abyde the joporte of the Kyngges Wrytyng but he trustyth to godde to inpanell seche men as Shuln to hise knowleche be indeferent and non Comon Juro's As me femyth it wold do goode And ye wolde

and rear actions that should be to the avail of him and of his office : he would have known what the actions should be ; I said I could not tell him, and then he said he would do for you that he may, except for the acquittal of the Lord Molyns's men, in-
somuch as the King hath written to him for to shew favour to the Lord Molyns and his men, and as he saith the indictment longeth (*belongeth*) to the King and not to you, and the Lord Molyns (*is*) a great Lord. Also, as he saith, now late the Lord Molyns hath sent him a Letter, and my Lord of Norfolk another for to shew favour in these indictments, he dare not abide the jeopardy of that, that he should offend the King's commandment, he know not how the King may be informed of him, and what shall be said to him.

And then I said as for any jeopardy that he should abide in any thing that he doth for you, or by your desire, ye have offered him, and will perform it, sufficient surety for to save him harmless, and therefore I supposed there would none reasonable man think but that he might do for you without any jeopardy ; and then he said he might none surety take that passed an hundred pounds ; and the Lord Molyns is a great Lord, he might soon cause him to lose that and much more ; then I said, by that mean in default of a Sheriff every man may be put from his livelihood ; and then he said, if it were for the livelihood men would take them the nearer for to abide a jeopardy, but by his faith, as he swore, if the King wrote again to him he will no longer abide the jeopardy of the King's writing, but he trusteth to God to impanel such men as should to his knowledge be indifferent, and none common Jurors.

wolde gett a comaundment of the Kyng to the Shereff for to Shew yow Favo^r and to inpanell lantelmen and not for to favo^r non feche riotts &c. For he feyde that he Sent yow the letter y^t the Kyng sent hym and ye seyde A man shuld gete feche on for a noble It'm I remembred hym of the p'myses that he hath made to Temp'ley And that if he wold make yow very trew p'mys ye wold rewarde hym as meche as he wold desire or any other resonable man for hym and asmoche and mor then any Adu^rferry ye have wold gef hym than he seyde he toke neu^r no mony of non of hem alle there was p'ferid hym at Walsyngh'm for the lord Molyns XX nobles he had not a peny more-ou^r I p'ferid hym if he wold make yow p'mys that ye myght veryly trust upon hym ye wold geff hym in hande as he wold desire or to leve a sūme if he wold a named it in a mene mannys hand and feche as he hath trust to And then he seyde if he myght do for yow or if he do any thyng for yow then he wol take yowre mony wy^t a good wyl And other p'mys I coude not have of hym but that he wol do for yow all that he may excepte for the inditements I conceyve veryly he hath made p'mys to do hese part that they shul be a quytte but I suppose he hath made non other p'mys ayens yow for the lyvelode but he lokyth aftyr a gret brybe but it is not for to trust hym veryly wy^t owte that he may not chese I suppose he had no wrytyng fro my lord of Norff as he seyde I was at Framyngh'm for to a spoke wy^t Tympley Debnam or Berry and they were all ought my lord as
he

As me seemeth it would do good and ye would get a commandment of the King to the Sheriff for to shew you favour, and to impannel Gentlemen, and not for to favour none such riots, &c. for he said that he sent you the Letter that the King sent him, and ye said, a man should get such (*an*) one for a noble (6s. 8d.)

Item, I remembered him of the promises that he made to Tymperley, and that if he would make you very true promise ye would reward him as much as he would desire, or any other reasonable man for him, and as much or more than any adversary ye have would give him; then he said he took never no money of none of them all; there was proffered him at Walsingham for the Lord Molyns twenty Nobles (6l. 13s. 4d.) he had not a penny; moreover I proffered him, if he would make you promise that ye might verily trust upon him, ye would give him in hand as he would desire, or to leave a sum if he would have named it in a mean (*middle*) man's hand, and such as he hath trust to; and then he said, if he might do for you, or (*q. for*) if he do any thing for you then he will take your money with a good will; and other promise I could not have of him, but that he would do for you all that he may, except for the indictments; I conceive verily he hath made promise to do his part that they shall be acquitted, but I suppose he hath made none other promise against you for the livelihood, but he looketh after a great bribe, but it is not for to trust him verily without that he may not choose.

I suppose he had no writing from my Lord of Norfolk as he said.

I was at Framlingham for to have spoken with Tymperley, Debenham, or Berry, and they were all out; my Lord as he

he came from london he was at yepysweche on moneday And when he wy^towth the Town toward Framyngh'm he had all hese men ryde forth afore a gret pase for he wold felwe softely And when hese men were owte of fyght he rode wy^t v men to a squieris place of hese there by And on tewsday rodde my lady to hym And so I dede nought at Framyngh'm No more at thys tyme but all myghty Jhu spede yow and have yow in hese kepyng Wrote at Norwiche the Thursday next aftyr Sent Austyn, &c.

Be yo^r fr^vūt,

John Osbern.

11 ½ by 13.

Paper Mark,

A Bull.

Pl. xxii. N^o 16.

LETTER LXXIII.

RYT w'chipful hwsbond I recomawnd me to z^u and prey zw to gete som crosse bowis and ¹wy^dacs to bynd ye' w^t and ²quarrell for z^r hwsfis her ben so low yat yer may non man schet owt w^t no long bowe yow we hadde nev' so moche nede I

The Direction of this curious Letter is obliterated, but it is plainly from Margaret Paston to her Husband; and the paper is likewise so completely filled with writing that she has not even either subscribed or dated it, but by the mentioning of Sir John Fastolf, it must have been written before 1459.

We have here a particular account of the offensive weapons used in the Castles, and even in the common houses of the inferior people, who seemed to have lived in a continued state of warfare with their neighbours, and to be prepared to oppose force by force.

oppose

came from London he was at Ipswich on Monday, and when he (*came*) without the town towards Framlingham, he had all his men ride forth afore a great pace, for he would follow softly, and when his men were out of sight, he rode with five men to an Esquier's place of his thereby, and on Tuesday rode my Lady to him; and so I did nought at Framlingham. No more at this time, but Almighty Jesu speed you, and have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, the Thursday next after Saint Austin, &c. (28th August.)

By your Servant,

JOHN OSBERN.

Norwich, August.

Between 1457 and 1460,
35 and 39 H. VI.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

To my right worshipful Husband, John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, and pray you to get some Cross Bows and ¹ Wyndacs, (*Windlasses*) to bind them with and ² Quarrels, for your houses here be so low that there may none man shoot out with no long bow, though we had never so much need.

We can from this account likewise form a judgment for what purposes the embrasures now remaining in ancient buildings were intended; and from their heights and dimensions determine whether they were to shoot through with arrows, or to fire through with guns.

¹ Windacs, are what we now call grappling irons, with which the bow-string is drawn home.

² An Arrow with a square head.

The Seal has the impression of a Fleur-de-Lys. Pl. xxiii. No 7.

fopose ze xuld have seche thy'gs of ser Ion Fastolf if ze wold
 fend to hym And also I wold ze xuld gete ij or iij schort pelle-
 axis to kepe w^t doris a'd als' many lakkys and ye may P'tryche
 and his felaschep arn for aseryd yat ze wold entren azen up on
 'hem and yey have made grete ordynawce w^t jnne ye hwse as it
 is told me yey have made barris to barre the dorys crosse weyfe
 and yey hav' made wykets on ev'y quart' of ye hwse to schote
 owte atte bothe w^t bowys and w^t hand gu'nys and ye holys yat
 ben made forr hand gu'nys yey ben scarfe kne hey fro ye
 plawner and o f socheholis b'en made fyve yere can non man
 schete owt at yen w^t no hand bowys Purry felle i' felaschepe
 w^t. Willyum Hafard at querles and told hym yat he wold com
 and drynk w^t. P'tryche and w^t hym and he seyde he xuld ben
 welcom and aft' none he went yedd' for to aspye qhat yey dedyn
 and qhat felaschep yey hadde w^t. yem and qhan he com yedd' ye
 dors were fast sperid and yere wer non folks w^t. hem but Mary-
 oth and Capron and hys wyf and querles wyf ad anoy' man i
 ablac zede su' qhate halty'g I fopo' be his w'ds yat it was Nor-
 folk of Gemy'gham and ye seyde purry aspyde alle yis forseyd
 thy'gs And Marioth and his felaschep had meche grette langage
 yat xall ben told zw qhen ze kom hom I p'y zw yat ze wyl
 vowche save to don. bye for me j li. of almands and j li. of sugyr
 and yat ze wille do byen fume frefe to maken of z' child is
 gwnys ze xall have best chepe and best choyse of Hayis wyf as
 it is told me And yat ze wyld bye a zerd of brode clothe of blac
 for

I suppose ye should have such things of Sir John Fastolf, if ye would send to him ; and also I would ye should get two or three short Pole-axes to keep with doors, and as many Jackets, and (*if*) ye may.

Partrich and his fellowship are fore afraid that ye would enter again upon them, and they have made great ordinance within the house, and it is told me they have made bars to bar the doors cross wise, and they have made wickets on every quarter of the house to shoot out at, both with bows and with hand guns ; and the holes that be made for hand-guns they be scarce knee high from the plancher (*floor*) and of such holes be made five, there can none man shoot out at them with no hand-bows.

Purry fell in fellowship with William Haward at Quarles's, and told him that he would come and drink with Partrich and with him, and he said he should be welcome, and after noon he went thither for to espy what they dedyn (*had done*), and what fellowship they had with them ; and when he came thither the doors were fast speared (*shut*) and there were none folks with them but Maryoth, and Capron and his wife, and Quarles's wife, and another man in a black yed (*went*) somewhat halting, I suppose by his words that it was Norfolk of Gimmingham ; and the said Purry espied all these foresaid things.

And Maryoth and his fellowship had much great language that shall be told you when ye come home.

I pray you that ye will vouchsafe to do buy for me one lb. of Almonds and one lb. of sugar, and that ye will do buy some frieze to make of your children's gowns, ye shall have best cheap, and best choice of Hays's wife, as it is told me. And that ye will buy a yard of broad cloth of black for one hood for
me

for an hode fore me of xliiij^d or liij^s a zerd for y' is n'ther gode cloth ner god fryse in this twyn as for ye child is gwnys and I have yem I wel do hē maken.

The trynyte have zw jn his kepi'g and send zw gode spede i alle z' mat'is.

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Maistr. Paston,

H. R.

AFTYR dewe recomendacōn wyth my simple S^rvice p^rcedyng please your maistr^rshyp to wete that as to such remēbrūnce that ye desyre me to contynew forth to the uttermost I shall wyth gode Wille so as my maister wille licence me as oft as I can th' offic^r. to hafe leyf^{re} to be wyth me for ye know well I can not do it alone, &c. And where as ye of your pleas^{re}. wryte me or calle me maistr^r Worcest^r j pray and requyre yow foryete that name of maistr^rshyp for I am not amended by my maistr^r. of a ferthyng yn certeynte but of wags of housfold in comune (entaunt come nows plaira) by Worcest^r or Botoner I hafe v^s. yerly all costs born to help pay for bonetts that I lose I told so my maistr^r. thys weke And he seyde me yerstenday he wyshed me to hafe be a preeft so I had be disposed to hafe gofe
me

me of 44^d or four Shillings a yard, for there is neither good cloth nor good frieze in this town. As for the children's gowns and (*if*) I have them, I will do them maken (*have them made.*)

The Trinity have you in his keeping, and send you good speed in all your matters.

MARGARET PASTON.

No date,

But before 1459.

37 H. VI.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

To my Master Paston,

H. R.

AFTER due recommendation with my simple service preceding, please your mastership to weet, that as to such remembrance that ye desire me to continue forth to the uttermost, I shall with good will, so as my Master will licence me as oft as I can the officer to have leisure to be with me, for ye know well I cannot do it alone, &c.

And whereas ye of your pleasure write me, or call me Master Worcester, I pray and require you forget that name of mastership, for I am not amended by my Master of a farthing in certainty, but of wages of household in common entant commonous plaira; by Worcester or Botoner, I have five Shillings yearly, all costs borne, to help to pay for Bonnets that I lose; I told so my Master this week, and he said (*to*) me yesterday, he wished me to have been a Priest so I had been disposed, to have given

me a lyvyng by reson of a benefice that anothyr most gefe it as the byshop (but he wold) And so I endure intr. egenos ut servus ad aratrum. forgefe me I wryte to make yow laugh And our lord bryng my maist^r. yn a bett^r. mode for othyr as for me at Caistr ij^d day of Septēber.

I pray yow displese^r not yo^r. S^runt be so long for my maist^r. lettet hym.

Yo^r,

W. Wpccespr.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N^o 15.

This Letter appears to be written between jest and earnest, he laments the smallness of his standing wages, and seems to hint that his Master Sir John Fastolf would be willing to provide for him if he could do it at the expence of another.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

*To my maist^r John Paston
Squier be yis delyv^d.*

RYGH T worshypfull S^r I recōmaund me to yow. And my maister hertly thankyth yow for the venyson that ye sent hym from my lord of Oxford And pr'yth yow that he may be recōmaunded to hys noble lordshyp And god thank yow for your speciall remēbr'unce of my mater that ye hafe it so tendyrly to hert for ye may know weel the gode spede of that ys my well-fare

me a living by reason (*means*) of a Benefice, that another man must give it, as the Bishop, but (*if*) he would; and so I indure inter egenos ut servus ad aratrum.

Forgive me, I write to make you laugh; and our Lord bring my Master into a better mood for others as (*well as*) for me. At Caister, the 2d day of September.

I pray you displeasure not your Servant be so long, for my Master letted him.

Your,

W. WORCESTER.

Caister,

2d of September,

Before 1459. 38 H. VI.

The date is uncertain and immaterial, though it must be before 1459. 38 H. VI.
Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 31.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

To my Master John Paston, Esquire, be this delivered.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, and my Master heartily thanketh you for the Venison that ye sent him from my Lord of Oxford, and prayeth you that he may be recommended to his noble Lordship. And God thank you for your special remembrance of my matter that ye have it so tenderly to heart, for ye may know well the good speed of that is my welfare, and the contrary is my utter undoing.

VOL. III.

T t

I have

fare and the cont'rye ys my utter undoyngs. I have sent to Iohn Porter to wete verrayly how it standyth w^t. hym as ye shall wete the certeynte thys weke. As for the mater wryt to Bokkyng he hath rad ys l're and wille remēbr your desyre and also of Williā Geney Comyng yn case he know of it rathyr then ye. and my maistr herd the subst'unce of your l're red and lyked it ritz well and as for the mater of Worcestre remēbr'unce he shall geve hys attend'unce therto yn that he can. And where ye calle hym maistr he ys displeased wyth that name for he may spend v s. yerly more by the name of Worcestre or Botoner And by hys maister not a fcrthyng yn certeynte he prayth yow foryete it. I pray god kepe yow Wryt at Castr hastily ij^d day of Septēbr.

Your oune,

T. Howes.

It'm yn case Jankyn be hole my lord of Norff' hath gra'nted by moyen of Rob't Wyngfeld to be yn my feyd lord ys housfold as my maistr' hath it by l're from Wyngfeld.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

We see that in the age here mentioned, venison was a present worthy acceptance from a nobleman to a great commoner, and a knight of the garter.—It might have been supposed that from the large possessions of Sir John Fastolf in Norfolk and Suffolk, that a park had been a part of them, but from the circumstance here mentioned it certainly was not.

John de Vere, the Earl of Oxford, from whom this present of venison came, married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, knight, of Wigenhall, St. German's, in Norfolk, by her he became possessed of a considerable property in that County.

CCC.

I have sent to John Porter to weet verily how it standeth with him, as ye shall weet the certainty this week; as for the matter written to John Bokking he hath rad (*read*) his Letter, and will remember your desire, and also of William Geney's coming, in case he know of it rather than ye.

And my Master heard the substance of your Letter read, and liked it right well; and as for the matter of Worcester's remembrance, he shall give his attendance thereto in that he can.

And where ye call him Master, he is displeased with that name, for he may spend 5s. yearly more by the name of Worcester or Botoner, and by his Master not a farthing in certainty, he prayeth you (*to*) forget it.

I pray God keep you. Written at Caister, hastily, the 2d day of September.

Your own,

T. HOWES.

Item, in case Jankyn be whole, my Lord of Norfolk hath granted (*him*) by mean of Robert Wingfield, to be in my said Lord's household, as my Master hath it by Letter from Wingfield.

Caister,

2d of September,

Before 1459. 38 H. VI.

"Master" appears from this Letter to be a title of distinction which William Worcester wishes to dispense with, as it does not contribute to affording him larger wages from his Master Sir J. Fastolf.—That seems to be the meaning of what occurs in this Letter.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. No 16.

T t 2

LET-

L E T T E R LXXX.

*To my Right Worchipfull
hosbond John Paston be thys
delyv'yd in hast.*

RIGHT worchipfull hosbond I recom'and me to yow desyring to here of your welfar p'ying yow to wete that Sr Thomas Howes hath purveyd iiij dormants for the drawte cham' and the malthouse and y^e browere Wherof he hath bought iiij and the forte y^e shall be the lengest and grettest of all he shall have from Heylesdon whiche he seyth my mayst^r Fastolf shall geve me be cause my cham' shall be made y^r w^t as for y^e layig of the feyd dormants they shall be leyd this next weke be cause of the malthous and as for the remenant I trow it shall abyde tyll ye come hom be cause I can nother be p'veyd of pyfts ne of bords not yette I have take the mesure in the draute cham' y^r as ye wold yo^r cofors and yo^r ² cowntewery shuld be sette for the whyle and y^r is no space besyde the bedd thow the bedd wer remevyd to the dore for to sette bothe yo^r bord and yo^r kofors ther and to have space to go and fitte be syde Wherfor I have p'veyd that ye shall have the fame drawte cham' that ye had befor ther as ye shall ly to yo^r self and whan yo^r gerr is remevod owte of yo^r lytil hous the dore shall be lokkyd and your baggs leyd in on of the grete koforis so y^t they shall be fauff I trost Ric' Charles and John Dow have fetched hom y^e ³ chyld from

In this Letter we have an account of Reparations and Alterations making in their house, with a Description of their Bed-chamber, and its furniture.

² What the word Drawte means, when applied to a Chamber, I am not certain.

Roke-

L E T T E R LXXX.

To my right worshipful husband, John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, desiring to hear of your welfare; Praying you to weet that Sir Thomas Howes hath purveyed four Dormants (*Beams*) for the ¹ Drawte Chamber, and the Malthouse, and the Brewery, whereof he hath bought three, and the fourth, that shall be the longest and greatest of all, he shall have from Heylesdon, which he saith my master Fastolf shall give me, because my chamber shall be made therewith. As for the laying of the said Dormants, they shall be laid this next week because of the Malthouse, and as for the remanant I trow it shall abid 'till ye come home, because I can neither be purveyed of posts, nor of boards not yet.

I have taken the measure in the drawte chamber, there as ye would your coffers and your ² Cowntewery should be set for the while, and there is no space beside the bed, though the bed were removed to the door, for to set both your Board and your Coffers there, and to have space to go and sit beside; wherefore I have purveyed that ye shall have the same drawte chamber that ye had before there, as ye shall lye to yourself; and when your gear is removed out of your little house, the door shall be locked, and your bags laid in one of the great Coffers, so that they shall be safe, I trust.

Richard Charles and John Dow have fetched home the ³ Child

² Countewery must mean his Counter, Desk, or Board to sit and write, &c. at.

³ The Child now brought home seems to have been at nurse at Rockland Tofts. Williams's situation at Blickling appears to have been an improper one.

from

Rokelond toftes and it is apraty boy and it is told me y^e wyll is att Blyklȳg w^t a pore man of y^e town a yonge woman that was sometyme w^t Burton of this town sent me word y^e of I p^y yow send me word if ye woll y^e any thyng y^e ye woll be do to hym or ye com hom Ric^e Charles fend^t yow word y^e Wyllles hath be at hym here and offerd hym to make hym astate in all thyngs accordig to ther indentur and if he do the contrary ye shall sone have word my moder p^yith yow for to remembr my sust^r and to do yo^r p^te feythfully or ye come hom to help to gette her agode ⁴ mariage it femyth be my moders langage y^e she wold nev^r so fayn to have be delyu^yd of her as she woll now it was told here that Knyvet the Heyer is for to mary bothe his wyff and child be dede as it was told here Wherfor she wold y^e ye shuld inquiry whedd^r it befo or no and what hys lyvelode is and if ye thynke y^e it be for to do to lete hym be spoke w^t y^e of I p^y yow y^e ye be not strange of wrytīg of letters to me be twix y^e and y^e ye come hom if I myght J wold have ev^y day on from yow the blyssed tⁿyte have yow ī his kepȳg wrete att Norwyche on y^e tefday next aft^r y^e cōv^rcon seynt poull.

Be yours,

⁵ M. P.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8.

⁴ The marriage of his sister Elizabeth was an object of great consequence to his mother, as those two did not, from many things which occur, agree properly together; but I cannot ascertain, from the Pedigree of the family of Knevet, which of them is here meant.

from Rockland Tofts, and it is a pretty boy; and it is told me that Will is at Blickling with a poor man of the town; a young woman that was some time with Burton of this town sent me word thereof; I pray you send me word if ye will that any thing that ye will be done to him ere ye come home. Richard Charles sendeth you word, that Willes hath been at him here, and offered him to make him estate in all things according to their indenture, and if he do the contrary ye shall soon have word.

My Mother prayeth you for to remember my Sister, and to do your part faithfully ere ye come home to help to get her a good⁺ marriage; it seemeth by my mother's language that she would never so fain to have be delivered of her as she will now.

It was told here that Knivet the heir is for to marry; both his wife and child be dead, as it was told here; wherefore she would that ye should enquire whether it be so or no, and what his livelihood is, and if ye think that it be for to do, to let him be spoken with thereof.

I pray you that ye be not strange of writing of Letters to me betwixt this and that ye come home, if I might I would have every day one from you. The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, on the Tuesday next after the Conversion (*of*) Saint Paul. (25 *January*.)

By yours,

5 MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Tuesday January,
sometime
before 1459. 38 H. VI.

5 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal a Fleur de lys. Pl. xxiii. N° 7.

Æ C C

LETTER LXXXIII.

*To my Right worshipfull
moder Agnes Paston.*

RIGHT worshipfull and my most entierly belovde mod^r in the most louly man^r I recomaund me unto yo^re gode moderhode besekeyng you dayly And myghtly of yo^r moderly blissing Ev^rmor desiryng to her of yo^r welfare And p^rspite ye which I p^ry god to contynw And encrease to your herts desyre And yf it lyked your gode moderhode to here of me And how I do at the makynge of this l^re I was in gode hele of body tanked be Ihu And as for my Mayst^r my best beloved that ye call And I must nedes call hym so now for I fynde noon oy^r cause And as I trust to Jhu non shall for he is full kynde unto me And is as besy as he can to make me sur of my joyntor wherto he is j bounde in a bonde of mⁱ li. to you moder and to my broy^r Iohn and to my broy^r Will^m And to Edmund ^r Clere the which neded no such bond Wherfore I beseke you gode moder as our most syng[']ler trost is yn your gode moderhode that my maistr my best beloved fayle not of the C m[']rc at the begynnyng of this t[']me the which ye p[']mysed hym to his mariage w^t the Remanent of the money of Faders wille. For I have p[']mytted faithfully to a gentelman called Bain that was oon of my best beloved

fuertees

The dutiful Address of Elizabeth Poynings, daughter of Sir William and Agnes Paston, to her mother, and the handsome manner in which she speaks of her husband, would do honour to a modern daughter and wife; and the anxiety she shews that her husband might be able to discharge his sureties, is both pleasing and commendable.

In 1457, when unmarried, she lived with Lady Pole, as appears from Letter XXXV.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

To my right worshipful Mother Agnes Paston.

RIGHT worshipful and my most entirely beloved mother, in the most lowly manner I recommend me unto your good motherhood, beseeching you daily and nightly of your motherly blessing, evermore desiring to hear of your welfare and prosperity, the which I pray God to continue and increase to your heart's desire; and if it liked your motherhood to hear of me and how I do at the making of this letter, I was in good hele (*health*) of body thanked be Jesu; and as for my master, my best beloved that ye call, and I must needs call him so now, for I find none other cause, and as I trust to Jesu never shall, for he is full kind unto me, and is as busy as he can to make me sure of my Jointure, whereto he is bound in a Bond of a thousand pounds to you mother, and to my brother John, and to my brother William, and to Edmund ¹ Clere, the which needed no such bond; wherefore, I beseech you good mother, as our most singular trust is in your good motherhood, that my master, my best beloved, fail not of the hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) at the beginning of this term, the which ye promised him to his marriage, with the remanent of the money of my father's will; for I have promitted (*promised*) faithfully to a Gentleman called Bain, that was one of my best beloved's sure-

XXXV. vol. i. p. 143. She had been now lately married to Robert Ponynge, or Poynings, whom she survived, and afterwards married Sir George Browne, of Beechworth Castle, in Surrey, and was living in 1485.

¹ Edmund Clere, was the second son of John Clere, Esq. of Ormesby, and died in 1463.

fuertees And was bounde for hym in CC li. of which he Reher-
feth for to Ryfeyve at the begynnyng of thys t'me Cxx li. And yf
he fayle y'of at this tyme he wille clayme the hool of us the
which were to us to grete an hurt And he con not make an ende
w^t noon of hys oy^r fuertees w^toute this feyd fylv^r And that con
my broy^r Iohn telle yow wel j nough and it lusteth hym to
do foo And in all oy^r thyngs As to my lady Pool w^t hom I
soie'ned that ye wul be my tendr and gode moder that she
may be payde for all the costes doon to me before my mary-
age and to Xpofre Houfon as ye wrote unto my broy^r Iohn
that it shuld have ben so. And yat it plese your gode moder-
hode to yeve credence to Will'm Worcestre And Jhu for his
grete m'cy save yow Written at london the Wendyfday the
iij day of Janyver.

By your humble Doughter,

² Elpzaberh Ponynngs.

¹² by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
a Pair of Scales
within a Circle.

Plate xxii. N^o 14.

² Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 26.

CCC=

ties, and was bound for him in two hundred pounds, of which he rehearseth for to receive at the beginning of this term one hundred and twenty pounds, and if he fail thereof at this time, he will claim the whole of us, the which were to us too great an hurt; and he cannot make an end with none of his other sureties without this said silver, and that can my brother John tell you well enough and it lusteth (*listeth*) him to do so, and in all other things. As to my Lady Pool, with whom I sojourned, that ye will be my tender and good mother, that she may be paid for all the costs done to me before my marriage, and to Christopher Houson, as ye wrote unto my brother John, that it should have been so; and that it please your good motherhood to give credence to William Worcester; and Jesu for his great mercy save you! Written at London, the Wednesday the 3 day of January.

By your humble Daughter,

ELIZABETH PONYNGGS.

London, Wednesday,

3 January, 1458-9.

37 H. VI.

U u 2

LET-

LETTER LXXXIII.

*To the right worchepfull**Sr John Paston at Norwich.*

RYGH T worchepfull Sr. I recūaunde me un to you leke you to wete my Maist^r Fastolf ¹ Compert is spedde and demyd in y^e Eschequier for hym a yens y^e kyng wher in was Crafti labo^r and cloos to the seid spede and laked no dylygence for y^e mat^r was defused and dubble Jntendementz aft' dyu'se mennys appynyons her is Williem Brandon late ² Eschetour and wold have a ³ non Molestando for Fulthorp and be cause ye spake to me y^t no mo shuld be sued owte and I can gete no ⁴ lybarate in y^t case y'fore as it is tolde me he wyll haue oon up on Wenteworth is patente And y^t wer to my Maist^r boy^e velleny and hurte J p'y you send me heryn your avyse it is no grete maistre to gader up y^t mony if it wer wele labord I haue somwhat affrayed yem and made hem spend mony as J wot well ye shall her y'of ye and I been discharged of our maynprys Now Sr for goddis fake as I have meved you a fore help to sette my Maist^r in a worchepful dyrecon of his Maters to his honour his p'fyte and his hertis ease y^t which so doon he shall haue y^e bett^r leyfour to dyffpose hym self godly and be sette his londs and his goodys to y^e

The first part of this Letter relates entirely to law proceedings, the latter part likewise is on the same subject, but as it contains the fair and honest advice of a friend and relation, of one who seems to have an interest in the character which Sir John Fastolf should leave here, and in his eternal happiness hereafter, I thought such a Letter would be pleasing to the Reader.

¹ Compertorium is a judicial inquest in civil proceedings, made by Commissioners to find out, &c. the truth of a cause.

p'efour

L E T T E R LXXXII.

To the right worshipful Sir, John Paston, at Norwich.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, like you to weet my Master Fastolf's ¹ Compert is sped and deemed in the Exchequer for him against the King, wherein was crafty labour and close to the said speed, and lacked no diligence, for the matter was diffused and double intendments after divers men's opinions.

Here is William Brandon, late ² Escheator, and *(be)* would have a ³ non molestando for Fulthorpe, and because ye spake to me that no more should be sued out, and I can get no ⁴ Liberate in that case, therefore as it is told me, he will have one upon Wentworth's Patent, and that were to my Master both villainy and hurt; I pray you send me herein your advice, it is no great matter to gather up that money, if it were well laboured; I have somewhat affrayed (*frightened*) them, and made them spend money, as I wot well ye shall hear thereof. Ye and I be discharged of our mainprise.

Now Sir, for God's sake as I have moved you afore, help to set my Master in a worshipful direction of his matters to his honour, his profit, and his heart's ease, the which so done he shall have the better leisure to dispose himself godly, and beset (*ordain*).

² A County Officer who takes notice of the King's Escheats, and certifies them into the Exchequer.

³ A Writ which lies for him who is molested contrary to the King's protection granted him.

⁴ An original warrant issuing out of the Exchequer for the payment of any annual pensions, &c. granted under the great seal.

his.

pleſour of god and y^e wele of his ſowle y^t all men may ſey he
deyeth a wyſe man And a worchepfull yf ye wyſte what wor-
chep ſhuld growe to you in favour and Conſeyte of all men yus
to do I wot well ye wolde be right ſpedy yⁿ For J beleve fully
ye ar ryght well wyllid y^{to} and if owte J Cowde helpe y^{to} at
myn nexte Comyng yf I knew your entent I wold do y^t I cowde
yf it like you to wryte your avyſe in a bylle y^t I myght haue it
by good fryday at Seint Benettys Williem Norwyche wol ſend
it yeder the holy Trinyte Conf^{'ve} you in hono^r and p^{'ſp}ite from
london y^e furſt day of Marche.

Yo^r,

^s Hugh a Fenne.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

^s The firſt of the Family of Fenn, of whom I find any certain information was Ralph de Fenne, who was witneſs to a Deed of Geoffry Plantagenet, a younger Son of King Henry II. dated at London, between 1154 and 1186, when Geoffry was killed by the Horſes at a Tournament at Paris.

This Family had poſſeſſions both in Yorkſhire and Norfolk, in the latter of which Counties Clement de Fenne had Eſtates, at Edinethorpe early in the 14th Century; and from whom, after four or five generations, was deſcended, Hugh a Fenne, or Hugh at Fenne, the writer of this Letter.

Hugh Fenn was at this time Lord and Patron of Icburgh, to which Church he preſented in 1454, 1461, and 1472. He purchaſed the Manors of Burdelos and Newlands in Sculton, of which he died ſeized. This Manor was held by this tenure, that the Lord thereof on the Coronation-day of the Kings of England ſhould be chief Lardiner, and ſhould have for his Fees the proviſions remaining after dinner in the Larder.

He had a Manor in Sco-Ruſton, which came afterwards to his Couſin Sir Edmund Jenney. He purchaſed of the Prior and Convent of Caſtleacre, the Advowſon of the Church of Heringby, and dying in 1475, 15 E. IV. he directed by his Will (dated February 4,) to be buried in that Church by his Mother. He gave 100 Marks to new roof the Church of Heringby, and 500 Marks to repair the ſteeple of the Cathedral at Norwich, and other ſums to the repair of the Highways, &c. Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 28. Seal. Pl. xiv. N^o 13.

CCC

his lands and his goods to the pleasure of God, and the weal of his soul, that all men may say he dieth a wise man and a worshipful; if ye wist what worship should grow to you in favour and conceit of all men thus to do, I wot well ye would be right speedy therein, for I believe fully ye are right well willed thereto, and if ought I could help thereto at my next coming, if I knew your intent, I would do that I could; if it like you to write your advice in a bill that I might have it by Good Friday, at Saint Benet's, William Norwich would send it thither.

The Holy Trinity conserve you in honour and prosperity.

From London, the 1st day of March.

Your,

HUGH A FENNE.

London, Thursday,

1st of March, 1458-9,

37 H. VI.

He directed a College or Hospital, to be called God's Poor Almes-house, to be founded in the Town of Heringby, for the maintenance of which he assigned Estates in Edinethorpe, &c. and directed his Wife Ellenor Fenn, and his Cousin William Jenney, Serjeant-at-law, to see this part of his Will performed. At the dissolution, in 1545, this Hospital, &c. was granted to Sir Thomas Clere, Knight.

Hugh Fenne was a Lawyer of eminence, and was highly esteemed by Sir John Fastolf and J. Paston, both as a Counsellor, Relation, and Friend. There was at this time another person of the same name, and of the same Family, Sir Hugh Fenn, Knight, Treasurer of the Household to Henry VI. whose Wife Dame Ellenor, was buried in St. Bartholomew's Priory, in London, and by whom he had an only Daughter and heir Margaret, the Wife of Sir George Neville, Lord Abergavenny, who was knighted at Tewkesbury, in 1471, attended the Coronation of Richard III. in 1483, and died in 1492; from their third Son Sir Edward Neville, a most valiant Knight and Soldier, the present Henry Neville, Earl of Abergavenny, is lineally descended.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my ryght wyschypful Fadre

John Paston esquier be thys lettr

delyv, yd in hasty wyse.

RYGH T Worschypful Syr jn the most lowly wyse I commaund me to yowr good Faderhod Besechyng yow of yowre blyssyng mut it plese yowr faderhod to remembre and concydre the peyn and henynesse y^t it hathe ben to me syn yowr dep^rtyng owt of thys contre' here abydyng tyl the tyme it please yow to schewe me grace And tyl the tyme that by reporte my demenyng be to yowr plesyng Besechyng yow to concydre y^t I may not her haue noo mene to seke to yow as I awght to do and fauyng vnder thys Forme whych I besech yow be not take to no dyspleur ner am not of power to do any thyng in thys contre for Worschyp or profyht of yow ner ease of yowr tenantys whych myght and scholde be to yowr pleasyng. Wherfor I beseche yow of yowr Faderly pyte to tendre y^e more thys symple wryghtyng As I schal owt of dowght her after doo y^t schal please yow to y^e uttermest of my power and labor And if ther be any fervyce y^t I may do if it please yow to Comaund me or if y maye understonde it J wyl be as glad to do it as any thyng erthely if it wer
any

We see here a plain, manly, and sensible Letter from a Son, who by some misconduct had given his father offence; his sorrow for having done amiss is properly expressed, and his promises for future amendment appear to be sincere.

The offence seems to have been some personal ill behaviour to his father, if we may judge

LETTER LXXXIII.

*To my right worshipful Father, John Paston, Esquire, be this
Letter delivered in hasty wise.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir, in the most lowly wise I commend me to your good fatherhood, beseeching you of your blessing; might it please your fatherhood to remember and consider the pain and heaviness that it hath been to me since your departing out of this country, here abiding till the time it please you to shew me grace, and till the time that by report my demeaning be to your pleasing; beseeching you to consider that I may not, nor have no mean to seek you as I ought to do, saving under this form, which I beseech you be not taken to no displeasure, nor am not of power to do any thing in this country for worship or profit of you, nor ease of your tenants which might and should be to your pleasing; wherefore I beseech you of your fatherly pity to tender the more this simple writing; as I shall out of doubt hereafter do that shall please you to the uttermost of my power and labour; and if there be any service that I may do, if it please you to command me, or if I may understand it, I will be as glad to do it as any thing earthly, if it

judge from what he says here, and from what his Mother mentions in a Letter to J. Paston in the following month, (see Letter XLIV. Vol. I. p. 175.)

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 29.

This is the first Letter in this Collection from John, afterwards Sir John Paston, knight.

any thyng y^t myght be to yowr pleasyng And no mor but
Allmyghty god haue yow in kepyng Wretyn the v day of
Marche.

By your older Sone,

John Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

LETTER LXXXIII.

RIGHT high and myghty Prynce my right noble and
good lord in my right humble wyse I recomaunde me to
your good grace And for the noble lordship and supportacon
shewid unto me at all tymes I besече our lord god guerdon
yow Where as I may not but only as yo^r daily and contynuell
bedeman now in myn age pray for the good p^rsp^{ite} of youre
right highe and noble estate as I am gretly bounde to doo prayng
tendirly yo^e highnesse to contynue yo^e good lordship and sup-
portacon in the mat^{es} touchyng yo^r s^{unt} John Porter and my
pore Chappelleyne Sr Thomas Howes trustyng verily to god that
with the supportacon of your good lordship there mater shall yette
Come to agood Conclusion in punisshyng of p^rjur^e and embracery
that many yeris hathe ben and yette is usid in this Shire whiche
were.

were any thing that might be to your pleasing. And no more,
but Almighty God have you in keeping. Written at Norwich,
the 5th day of March.

By your elder Son,

JOHN PASTON.

Norwich,

Monday, 5th of March,

1458-9. 37 H. VI.

LETTER LXXXIV.

RIGHT high and mighty Prince, my right noble and
good Lord, in my right humble wise I recommend me to
your good grace, and for the noble lordship and supportation
shewed unto me at all times, I beseech our Lord God guerdon
(reward) you, whereas I may not, but only as your daily and
continual Beadsman now in mine age pray for the good prosperity
of your right high and noble estate, as I am greatly bound to
do; praying tenderly your highness to continue your good lord-
ship and supportation in the matters touching your servant John
Porter, and my poor Chaplain Sir Thomas Howes, trusting verily
to God, that with the supportation of your good lordship, their
matters shall yet come to a good conclusion in punishing of per-
jury and embracery that many years hath been and yet is used

X x 2

in

were grete merite And to my Conceyte in yow that ar soo noble a prynce a singlar reno'ue as for the beste dede that may be doo for the weel of bothe shires And in like wise that it please youre right good grace to Contynue youre noble fauour and supportacon to me in remedyng the force doon by S^r Philip Wentworth kepyng now wrongful possession of certeyn londes in Suff. nygh youre castel of Framyngh'm whiche londs certeyn of my frendes to myn use haue of the kyng's graunte by his lres patent byfore ony patent that the seid S^r Philip hathe whiche is my singlar matier in myn owen p^rte that I haue now to doo as my Cofyn Paston can enforme yowr lordship for he knowith the mater and myn hole entente to whom yo^r good grace lyke to yife credence he Cometh to awaite upon yo^r. lordship at this tyme as I understande by my Cofyn youre S^ruaunt Richard Suthwell youre lordship desired.

Right highe and myghty prynce my noble and right good lord I beseche the holy goste be with yow And eu'e more sende yow the Accomplishment of youre right noble desires to his
pleisir

As this is the only Letter in this collection written by Sir John Fastolf to a man of superior rank to himself, I have given it, that his manner of expressing himself in such a situation may be seen. The Letter has no direction, having been originally enclosed in a cover, but by the contents is plainly intended for the Duke of Norfolk, his "Castle of Framlingham" being mentioned.

The time of its being written too can be nearly ascertained, Sir John mentioning not only his age, but in the part that is intended to be erased, his infirmities likewise, we may therefore conclude it was written in the last year of his life. Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 15. He died in November 1459, and the Duke in 1461.

Richard

in this shire, which were great merit, and to my conceit, in you that are so noble a Prince, a singular renown, as for the best deed that may be done for the weal of both shires.

And in like wise that it please your right good grace to continue your noble favour and supportation to me in remedying the force done by Sir Philip Wentworth, keeping now wrongful possession of certain lands in Suffolk, nigh your castle of Framlingham, which lands certain of my friends to my ease, have of the King's grant by his Letters Patent before any patent that the said Sir Philip hath, which is mine singular matter in mine own part, that I have now to do, as my Cousin Paston can inform your Lordship, for he knoweth the matter and mine whole intent, to whom your good grace like to give credence, he cometh to await upon your Lordship at this time, as I understand by my cousin your servant Richard Southwell, your lordship desired (*this is scratched out, but legible, "and to pardon me for necessite causeth me in as moche as I may not come in myn owne prsone as my will were."*)

Right high and mighty Prince my noble and right good Lord I beseech the Holy Ghost be with you, and ever more send you the accomplishment of your right noble desires to his pleasure and yours.

Richard Southwell was the son of Alice, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Berry, knight, and married Amy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Witchingham, of Wood-Rising, by Alice, daughter and heir of John Fastolf, Esq. by which means he was related both to Sir J. Fastolf and to J. Paston.

Sir Philip Wentworth, knight, of Nettlested, in Suffolk, was the son of Roger Wentworth, Esq. by Margery Lady Roos, daughter and heir of Sir Philip Spencer, knight, by Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Tiptofte, Earl of Worcester: he married Mary, daughter of Lord Clifford. The Estate at Nettlested continued in this family till the reign of Charles I. when it was sold.

Written

pleſir and youres Writen at my pore place of Caſtre the ijth.
day of Aprill.

Yo^r humble man and ſ'vnt,

J. Paſtolt.

ii. 2 by 6.

LETTER LXXX.

To my Maystr. Jon Paſtone Eſqwyer be this lett^r. p^sentid.

Jhu m^{cy}.

RYTE rev^{ent} mayſt' &c. as ſone as ze may goodly comyth
to caſtre and zelv^{ton} w^t zow and ze thi^k it to be don'.
And ſendyth home zo' men and hors. tyl ze haf do here, &c.
And by grace of god And zo' polityk Wiſdh'm ze ſchal co'clude
mor' effectually in gret maty's of ſubſtans to my mayſt'ys and zo'
worſchip and profyte It is hey tyme he drawyt faſt home ward.
And is ryte lowe browt And fore weykid and feblyd, &c. And
ze muſte bryng w^t zow a forme of a ſupplicacyon made at lon-
don in what man' wyſe M. R. popy a cu'ny'g and a crafty man
ſchal preſenty' and purpoſy' to the ky'g for the inmorteysig' of
Caſtr' to ſeynt benet, &c. Which he p^mittyd up a c'teyn mony,
&c. And undirtoke it, &c. And fond that tyme no bonys i' the
mat'e, &c. And now he ſeyth he wil labo' and ryde and do hiſe
part, &c. And he wold haf me to help hy' &c. q' no' fiet, &c.

or

Written at my poor place of Caister, the Second day of April.

Your humble man and Servant,

JOHN FASTOLF.

Caister,

2d of April.

About 1459.

37 H. VI.

LETTER LXXXV.

To my Master John Paston, Esq. be this Letter presented.

Jesu mercy.

RIGHT reverend Master, &c. as soon as ye may goodly come to Caister and Yelverton with you, and ye think it be to done and send home your men and horses till ye have done here, &c. and by grace of God and your politic wisdom ye shall conclude more effectually in great matters of substance to my Master's and your worship and profit. It is high time, he draweth fast homeward, and is right low brought, and fore weykid (*weakened*) and feblyd (*enfeebled*) &c. And ye must bring with you a form of a Supplication made at London, in what manner wise Master R. Popy, a cunning and a crafty man, shall present and purpose to the King for the amortising of Caister to Saint Bennet's, &c. which he promitted up (*promised upon*) a certain money, &c. and undertook it, &c. and found (*at*) that time no bones in the matter, &c. And now he faith he will labour and ride and do his part, &c. and he would have me help him, &c.

or ell' a man of credens of my mast'ys &c. q' dubito fieri &c.
 god bry'g zow sone hidyr &c. for j am weri tyl ze come Sir
 tho's the p'son zo' owne most tr'we &c. be my' tr'wthe. And j
 zo' bedema' and zowrs at zo' coma'ndme't i' zo' lett' haf no mor'
 towchid of the mat' &c. to my mayst' &c. Ev'y day this v dayes
 he seyth god send me sone my good cosyn paston for I holde hy'
 a feythful man And ev' on man. Cui ego. that is soth &c. &
 ille Schew me not the mete schew me the man h' v'ba replicat
 fepi' cu' mag' stòcho &c. Colin' Gallic' d' i' Iernemuta & a^{iis} loc's
 se e' executor'z &c. Dix' ecia' heri coram plr'ibz si semel fu'it
 london' nu' q' wlt vider' Norfolchia' &c. D' ecia' v'bi executors
 c' du't se habituros claves &c. p' morte' alii habebu't claves. ita
 b'n' sic illi &c. falsiffi' e' & ego b'n' dixi i' partem suam i't' ip'm &
 me &c. p'pt' deu' faciatis Spirly'g ve'irc jux' p'mism' in f'cū
 &c. Gallic' ip'e maxie odit rector'm & vellz supplantar' eu' &c.
 It' valde desiderat suu' quiet e' q' absit &c. he'ric Todyh'm c'ti'e
 aspirat p' morte' magr'i cu' mille habeat oc'los nocendi &c. si
 q' ru' duos dep'der't null' cet'os timeret &c.

8 1/2 by 5 1/2.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

PL. VIII. N° 21.

This Letter appears to have been written not long before the death of Sir John Fastolf, which happened in November 1459. He here expresses his anxiety for the settlement of his Estate at Caister for the purposes of religion, and wishes much for the presence of his Cousin Paston.

LET

quod non fiet, &c. or else a man of credence of my Master's &c. quod dubito fieri, &c. God bring you soon hither, &c. for I am weary till ye come. Sir Thomas the parson your own most true, &c. by my truth, and I your Beadsman, and yours at your commandment in your Letter have no more touched of the matter, &c. to my master, &c. Every day this five days he saith, "God send me soon my good Cousin Paston, for I hold him a faithful man, and ever one man cui ego, that is sooth, &c." et ille, "Shew me not the meat, shew me the man," hæc verba replicat sæpius cum magno stomacho, &c. Colinus Gallicus dicit in Iernmuthia & aliis locis se esse executorem, &c. dixit etiam heri coram pluribus si semel fuerit Londinum nunquam vult videre Norfolciam, &c. dixit etiam ubi executores credunt se habituros claves, &c. post mortem alii habebunt claves, ita bene sicut illi, &c. falsissimus est & ego bene dixi in partem suam inter ipsum & me, &c. proper Deum faciatis Spirlyng venire juxta promissum in &c. Gallicus ipse maxime odit rectorem & vellet supplantare eum, &c. Item valde desiderat suum, quietus est quia absit, &c.

Henricus Todynham continue aspirat post mortem magistri cum mille habeat oculos nocendi, &c. si quorum duos deperderit, nullus cæteros timeret, &c.

JOHN BRACKLEY.

1459. 37 H. VI.

The style of the Letter is particular, and the language a mixture of Latin and English.

Colinus Gallicus means William Worcester, of whom Dr. Brackley does not seem to have had a good opinion.

On the back of the Letter is written in an ancient hand, "Lrā f'ris Doctoris Brackley. p' quā patet Jo. Fastolf valde desiderasse p'sentiam consanguinei sui Jo. Paston."

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 25.

VOL III.

Y y

LET-

LETTER LXXXVJ.

*Carissimo suo magr'o**Joh'i Paston Armigero.*

IHs Maria, &c.

RYTE rev'ent mayst' and most trusty Frend in erthe as lowly as I kan or may j r'coma'nde me &c. Syr in feyth j was for' aferd that ze had a gret letty'g that ze come noton Wednysday to met &c. be my' feythe And ze had be her' ze schuld haf had ryte good chere &c. And hafe faryd ryte wele aft' zo' pleser' &c. w^t more &c. Sir jon Tatirshall is at one w^t Heydon &c. And lord Skalys hath made a 'lofeday w^t the p^or And Heydon in alle mat'ys except the mat'e of Snoryng &c. And the seyd pry'o' spake mayst'ly to the jurro'ys &c. And told hem And they had dred god And hurt of here fowlys they wold haf some i'struc'yon of the one p'ty as wele as of the oy' but

This Letter was written after the disperfion of the Duke of York's army near Ludlow, in October 1459, as the transactions here related, refer to the direction of state affairs when in the hands of Henry's Friends.

Commissions were granted to James Butler, Earl of Wiltshire, and Thomas Lord Scales and others to apprehend all those who had been concerned in the late rebellion, and to punish them according to law.

It appears here that J. Paston was supposed to favour the York party, and from the expressions contained in Dr. Brackley's Letters he certainly did so.

Brother John Brakle or Brackley, the son of John Brakle, a dyer, was born at Norwich, and about the year 1418, 6 H. V. entered when very young into the Convent of the Grey Friars, or Friars Minors at Norwich; he afterwards took a Doctor's degree in Divinity, and became a famous preacher. He was an intimate Friend of, and Chaplain to Sir John Fastolf, who appointed him one of his executors; he was also much connected with the Paston Family, being Chaplain to the Judge, and Tutor to Sir John Paston his grandson. He died in the year 1461 or 1462, and was buried in the Church of his own Convent. Autograph. Pl. xx, N^o 25.

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

Carissimo suo magistro Jobanni Paston Armigero.

Jesus, Maria, &c.

RIGHT reverend master and most trusty friend in earth
as lowly as I can or may, I recommend me, &c.

Sir, in faith I was fore afraid that ye had a great letting, that ye came not on Wednesday to meet, &c. by my faith and (*if*) ye had been here ye should have had right good cheer, &c. and have fared right well after your pleasure, &c. with more, &c.

Sir John Tatirshale is at one with Heydon, &c. and Lord Scales hath made a ¹ Love-day with the Prior and Heydon in all matters, except the matter of Snoring, &c. And the said Prior spake masterly to the Jurors, &c. and told them, and (*if*) they had dreaded God and hurt of their souls they would have some instruction of the one party, as well as of the other, but

The style and language of his Letters here produced, are very different from those of the other writers of this period here brought together, as they abound with Quotations from the Old and New Testament, and are often intermixed with sentences in Latin of his own composition.

I have endeavoured to give these Letters to the Reader as accurately as possible, but in two or three places I have been obliged to omit a sentence or two, as the contractions, added to the smallness and confusedness of the hand-writing, have made them so illegible, that after the most careful attention and examination, I have been forced to give up the decyphering; and I have likewise referred the Reader to the places whence the Quotations are taken.

¹ Love-days or Love-days, were days on which arbitrations were made, and differences settled amongst neighbours.

they wer' so bold they were not aferd for they fownde no bonys to sey ī her verdyte as T. T. And J. H. wold &c. A lewde docto' of ludgate p'chid on Soneday fowrtenyte at powlys chargyng the peple that no man schuld preyen for these ² lords trayto'ys &c. And he had lytyl thank as he was worthy &c. And for hyfe lewd demeny'g his brethir' arn had i' the lesse favo' at london &c. Docto' Pynchebek And Docto' Westhawe gr'te p'chowrys and p'fonys at london bene now late made Monkys of Chart'ows at Schene one at the on place and an oy' at the oy' place &c.

The ³ Cha'nceler is not good to these lords &c. for he feryth the Erle of Marche wyl cleyme by inheritans the Erldam of ⁴Ha &c. of which mat' j herd gret speche in som'cede schyr' &c Wydh'm Heydon Tody'h'm Blake W Cha'birleyn Wentworth have late co'mysfyonys to take for treto'ys and send to the next gayl alle p'fonys fawto'ys and weelwyllerys to the feyd lords &c. Mayst' Radclyff And ze haf none of Com'yssyonys directid to zow &c. for ze bene holdy' favo'abil &c. Wydh'm And Heydon bene namyd here Causerys of the c'mysfyonys &c. On moneday last at ⁵Crowme' was the Ore and the bokys of regystre of the Amrelte taky' a wey fro' my lord Scalys men be a gr't multitude of my lord Rossys &c. the lord Skalys is to my lord p'nce &c. to wayte on hy' &c. he seyth p' deu' f'c'm as we sey her' he schal be Amrel or he schal ly ther' by &c. be my

² We have here an instance of the pulpit being used for political purposes, and the Lords here meant were the Earls of March, Warwick, and Salisbury, and others in the Duke of York's interest.

³ William de Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester.

⁴ The Original Letter is here defective.

they were so bold, they were not afraid, for they found no bones to say in their verdict as Thomas Todenham and John Heydon would, &c.

A lewd Doctor of Ludgate preached on Sunday fort'night at Paul's, charging the people that no man should pray for these² Lords Traytors, &c. and he had little thank, as he was worthy, &c. and for his lewd demeaning, all his brethren are had in the less favour at London, &c. Dr. Pinchbeck and Dr. Westhawe, great Preachers and Parsons at London, be now late made Monks of Charter-House at Sheen, one at the one place, and another at the other place, &c.

The³ Chancellor is not good to these Lords, &c. for he feareth the Earl of March will claim by inheritance the Earldom of⁴ Ha... .. &c. of which matter I heard great speech in Somersetshire, &c.

Wyndham, Heydon, Todenham, Blake, W. Chamberleyne, and Wentworth have late Commissions to take for Traytors and send to the next gaol all persons fautorers (*favourers*) and well-willers to the said Lords, &c. Master Radcliff and ye have none of commissions directed to you, &c. for ye be holden favourable, &c.

Wyndham and Heydon be named here causers of these commissions, &c.

On Monday last at Cromer was the Oar and the Books of registry of the Admiralty taken away from my Lord Scales's men by a great multitude of my Lord Roos's men, &c. the Lord Scales is to my Lord Prince, &c. to wait on him, &c. he faith per Deum sanctum, as we say here, he shall be Admiral, or he

⁵ Cromer is a sea-port, on the north part of the Norfolk coast, where the Court of Admiralty appears to have been held by the Lord Scales, as Lord Admiral of the County. The Lord Roos here mentioned was most probably in the opposite interest.

shall

feyth here is a coyfy werd Walfh'm of Cha'ncery that nev'
made lefyng told me that Bokky'g was w^t my lord Cha'nceler
this t'me but j askyd not how many tymys &c. As I haf wryty'
to zow ofty' byfor this. Facite vob' A'icos de mam'o'a i'iq'tat's
q' de T. T. I. H and J W cu' cet'is m'ri Fastolf fallacibz
fam'lis magna' gerūt ad vos i'vidia' q^d exceller't's eos i' bonis, &c.
Iudas no' dormit &c. Noli zelare facie'tes i'iq'tate' qui' ta'q'
fenu' velocit' arefcēt and q^m admod' olera h'baru' cito p' d'i
gra'z decident Jdo' se' i' p^o spera i' d'uo & fac bo'itate' &
pasc'is i'di'ciis e' & del'tar i' d'no & dabit t' petico'es Cord's
tui & ali' jacta cogitatu' tuu' i' d'no & ip'e te enutriet. Utiaz
i' q^r Ap'l's Abfcidāt q' vos c't'bant, &c. & ali' Cavete vos a
malis & importunis hoibz. p'cor g' deū q' vos & me c' av^t &
fuo p' cofo fa'g'ne nos r'dem^t. vos v'ros & v'ra g'c'ofe c'f'vet i'
prosp'is & grac'ofius dirigat i' age'd's. Sc'pt' Wals' Fe' 4' i'
nocte cu' mag' festi'at'oe, &c.

Utia'z ifte mu'd maligu'
t'nsir' & c'up'ia e'.

V'r ad vota prōptiffim'

Fr. J. Brackley, Miorū minim^s.

11 1/4 by 8 1/4.

Paper Mark,
A Flower.

Pl. xxi. N^o 23.

LET

shall lye thereby, &c. by my faith here is a coisy (*unsettled*) word (*world.*) Walsham of Chancery that never made leasing (*lying*) told me that Bocking was with my Lord Chancellor this term, but I asked not how many times, &c.

As I have written to you often before this, "Facite vobis amicos de mammona iniquitatis," (*Luke xvi. 9.*)

Thomas Todenham, Johannes Heydon & J. Wyndham cum cæteris magistri Fastolf fallacibus famulis magnam gerunt ad vos invidiam, quod excelleritis eos in bonis, &c. Judas non dormit, &c. "Noli zelare facientes iniquitatem quoniam tanquam fenum velociter arescent, & quemadmodum olera herbarum cito per Dei gratiam decident." Ideo sic in Psalmo, "Spera in Domino & fac bonitatem, & pascêris in divitiis ejus & delectare in Domino & dabit tibi petitiones cordis tui." (*Psalms xxxvi. or xxxvii. 1, 2, 3, 4.*) "Et aliter. Jacta cogitatum tuum in domino, & ipse te enutriet." (*Psalms liv. or lv. 22.*) "Utinam inquit Apostolus abscindantur qui vos conturbant, &c. (*Gal. v. 12.*) "Et alibi, "Cavete vos a malis and importunis hominibus." (*2 Theff. iii. 2.*)

Precor gratiosum Deum qui vos & me creavit & suo pretioso sanguine nos redemit, vos vestros & vestra gratiose conservet in prosperis, & gratiosius dirigat in agendis.

Scriptum, Walsham feria 4^{ta} in nocte cum magnâ festinatione, &c. Utinam iste mundus malignus transiret & concupiscentia ejus. Vester ad vota promptissimus.

Frater JOHANNES BRACKLEY, Minorum Minimus.

Walsham, Norfolk,

Wednesday,

1459. 38 H. VI.

L. E. T.

LETTER LXXVII.

*To my maistr jon**Paſton in Norffolk.*

RYTHE will belovyd brodr I r'comand me to zow ſerte-
fyeng zow y^e on Fryday laſt was in the mornynge Wurcer^e
and I wer come to london be viij of y^e clok and we ſpak wth my
lord ' Chanceler and I fund hym well diſpoſyd in all thyng and
ze ſhall fynd hym ryth p'fytabyll to zow, &c. and he deſyred
me to wrythe zow a lett^r in hys name and put truſt in zow in
gaderyng of y^e good toged^r and p'y zow to do ſo and have all
his good owthe of ev'ry place of his, and his awne place qwer ſo
eu^r

We have in this Letter an account of the proceedings on the death of that renowned Knight and valiant Soldier Sir John Faſtolf, relative to his effects.

He was born about the year 1377, in the laſt year of the reign of Edward III. and is ſaid to have been brought up in the Norfolk family.

In 1408, 9 H. IV. he married in Ireland Milicent, Daughter of Robert Lord Tibetot, and Relict of Sir Stephen Scroop, by whom ſhe had a ſon Stephen.

From the year 1412, 13 H. IV. to the year 1440, 18 H. VI. he was chiefly engaged in the wars in France, where he performed many gallant actions, and acquired honour and wealth. He took the Duke of Alençon priſoner at the battle of Verneuil, in 1424, in 1425 was created Baron of Sillie le Guillem, and in 1426 was elected into the Order of the Garter.

After his return and ſettlement in his native country, he became a great builder; and at Caiſter are ſtill to be ſeen ſuch magnificent remains of his Seat or Caſtle, as even now do teſtify its former ſtate and grandeur; it was a ſquare building of brick, coped with free ſtone, each ſide of it being about 300 feet long, having a large and lofty Tower at each corner, one of which was a few years ago ſtanding almoſt entire, and of which a view is given in the title-page to this work, drawn by that accurate and ingenious Preſerver of our ancient Buildings, &c. Francis Groſe, Eſq. the Hall, we are informed, was 59 feet long and 28 broad; the whole was ſurrounded by a moat, and was a place in thoſe days of ſtrength and defence, having in the year 1469, 9 E. IV. ſuſtained a ſiege by the Duke of Norfolk, &c. After the death of Sir John Faſtolf this was for ſeveral generations the ſeat of the Paſton Family, and ſo continued until Clement Paſton, Eſq.
in

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

To my Master, John Paston, in Norfolk.

RIGHT well beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, certifying you that on Friday last was in the morning Worcester and I were come to London by 8 of the clock, and we spake with my Lord¹ Chancellor, and I found him well disposed in all things, and ye shall find him right profitable to you, &c.

And he desired me to write you a letter in his name, and put trust in you in gathering of the goods together, and pray you to do so, and have all his goods out of every place of his, and his

in the reign of Elizabeth, built Oxnead-hall, which then becoming their chief place of residence, this noble Mansion began to be neglected. About the middle of the last Century this Estate was purchased by the Crowes, from whom it came to the family of Bedingfield, and it is now (1788) by a female heiress, the property of Sir John Rous, bart.

He likewise built a splendid house in Yarmouth, and a Palace in Southwark. At length being nearly 83 years of age, and as he says of himself in his will, dated 4th Nov. 1459, "in good remembraunce albeit gretely vexed with sickness, and through age infebelyd," he departed this life, without issue, on Monday the 5th of November, 1459, 38 H. VI. at his Manor of Caister, and was most sumptuously buried in the Conventual Church of St. Bennet in the Holm, in Norfolk, under the Arch of the new Chapel, which he had lately rebuilt there, on the south side of the Choir or Chancel, under a marble tomb by the Body of Dame Milicent his wife.

When we consider this our worthy Knight, as sprung from an ancient and honourable family, inheriting ample fortunes, but immensely increasing them through a long, laborious, and indefatigable life, spent in the service of his Country, and acquiring Riches at the cost of its Enemies only; acting in a very high and exalted sphere, renowned for his courage and conduct in the field, and his abilities in the council, dispersing the fruits of his riches by his magnificent buildings and hospitality in his life time, and at his death devising the Capital itself for almost every purpose he could think of useful to the public, can we help exclaiming, Thou hast founded the fair fabric of thy fame upon a rock to last for ages!

¹ William de Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester.

eu^r they wer and ley it secr^{tly} wer as ze thowth best at zowr assy-
mēt and tyll y^t he speke w^t zow hym selff and he seyde ye schuld
have all lawfull favor I purpose to ryde to him y^{is} day ffor Wryttis
of ² diem claw^sit extr^{mū} and I sopo^se ze schall have a lett^r sent
from hym selff to zow as for the good of powlis it is safe j now
and y^{is} day we have grant to have y^e good owthe of ³ barmūsey
w^t owthe avyse of any mā sawyng Wors^t Plom^r and I my selff
and no body schall know of it but we thre my brod ⁴ tr^r forer
spekyth fayr but zet many avyse me to put no trust in hym ther
is laboryd many menys to intytill y^e kyng in his good. Sothe-
well is esch^{et}or and he is rythe good and well disposyd. My
lord of ⁵ exfat^r cleymyth tytill in m^y mast^r plase w^t y^e apor^ty-
nancys in Sothewerk and veryly had purposyd to have entrid
and his Confayll wer w^t us and spak w^t Wurs^t And me and
now aft^rward they have sent no word that they wold meve my
lord to sue be menys of y^e lawe, &c. I have spoke w^t my lord
of Cant^rbury and mast^r jon Stokys and I fynd hem rythe will
disposyd bothe, &c. It^r to morow ar y^e nexst day ze schall haue
a nod^r lett^r For be that tyme we schall know mor than we do
now my lord Chanceler wold y^t my mast^r schuld be beryed
wurchyply and C. mark almes done for hym but y^{is} day I
schall holly know his enthent mast^r jon Stokys hathe y^e fame
confaythe and Almes gevyng Harry Fenyngley is not in this

² This was a Writ which issued out of Chancery to the Escheator of the County, upon the death of any of the King's tenants in Capite, to enquire by a Jury of what lands he died seized, and of what value, and who was next heir to him.

³ An Abbey in Southwaak, where some of his Goods were deposited.

own place, where soever they were, and lay them secretly where as ye thought best at your assignment, and till that he speak with you himself, and he said ye should have all lawful favour.

I purpose to ride to him this day for Writs of ² diem clausit extremum, and I suppose ye shall have a letter sent from him self to you

As for the Goods of Paul's they are safe enough, and this day we have grant to have the Goods out of ³ Bermondsey without advice of any man saving Worcester, Plomer, and I myself, and nobody shall know of it but we three.

My ⁴ Lord Treasurer speaketh fair, but yet many advise me to put no trust in him; there is laboured many means to intitle the King in his Goods. Southwell is Escheator, and he is right good and well disposed.

My Lord of ⁵ Exeter claimeth title in my master's place with the appurtenances in Southwark, and verily had purposed to have entered, and his counsel were with us and spake with Worcester and me; and now afterwards they have sent us word that they would move my Lord to sue by means of the law, &c.

I have spoken with my Lord of Canterbury, and Master John Stokes, and I find them right well disposed both, &c.

Item, to-morrow or the next day ye shall have another letter, for by that time we shall know more than we do now.

My Lord Chancellor would that my Master should be buried worshipfully, and one hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) alms done for him; but this day I shall wholly know his intent; Master John Stokes hath the same conceit and alms giving.

* James Butler, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond. Beheaded in 1461.

⁵ Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter.

towne. Ner y^e lord bechamp It' we have gethe mē of y^e Sper-
tuall law w^t haldyn w^t us qwat casse some eu^r hap we haue mast^r
Robert Kenthe but in any wyfe haue all y^e good ther to gedyr
and tary for no lettyng. thow ze schuld do it be day a lythe
opynly for it is m^y lord Chanceler ffull in thenthe that ze
schuld do so as For Wyllyam ⁶ Worcet^r he trustythe veryly ze
wold do for hym And for his avaylle in reson and I dowthe
nott and he may veryly and feythefully und^rstand zow so dis-
posyd to hym ward ze schall fynd hym feythefull to zow in leke
wyffe I und^rstand by hym he will neu^r haue od^r mast^r butt his
old mast^r and to m^y Consaythe it were pete butt iff he schull
stand in fuche casse be m^y mast^r that he schuld nev^r nede Ser-
vyce cōseryng how m^y mast^r trustyd hym and y^e long zers that
he hathe be w^t hym in and many schrew journay For his sake,
&c. I wrythe zow no mor be cawse ze schall a nod^r lett^r wr^ty
to morow. Wr^ty at lūdon y^e xij day of novēbr in hast

Be

⁷ Wyllyam: Paston.

11. $\frac{1}{2}$ by 10.

Paper Mark,

a Bull's Head and Star,

Pl. xxii. N^o 15.

* For an Account of William Worcester, see Letter XXV. vol. i. p. 104, note^r.

LE

Harry Fenyngley is not in this town, nor the Lord Beauchamp.

Item, we have gotten men of the Spiritual Law with holden with us, what case soever happen, we have Master Robert Kent, but in any wise have all the Goods there together, and tarry for no letting, though ye should do it by day-light openly, for it is my Lord Chancellor's full intent that ye should do so.

As for William ⁶ Worcester he trusteth verily ye would do for him and for his avail and in reason, and I doubt not, and (*if*) he may verily and faithfully understand you so disposed to him ward, ye shall find him faithful to you; in likewise I understand by him he will never have other master but his old master, and to my conceit it were pity but if he should stand in such case by mine master that he should never need service, considering how my master trusted him, and the long years that he hath been with him in, and many shrewd journey for his sake, &c.

I write you no more because ye shall (*have*) another letter written to morrow. Written at London the 12th day of November in haste.

By

⁷ WILLIAM PASTON.

London, Monday,

12 Nov. 1459. 38 H. VI.

⁷ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 21.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

BE it reme'bred that forasmoch as S' John Fastolf late decefed of grete Affecon hath put me yn trust to be one of hys executo's And feth hyt ys defyryd me to know my disposicon hereynne myne advyse ys this that fyrst an Inventorie be made holye of hys godes and catell yn all places And thayt they be leyd yn sure waard by your discrecons 'tille the executo's or the moſte part of tho that he put hys grete trust uppon ſpeke wyth me and make declarac'on to me of hys laſt wille to the Accomplyſhm't whereoff I wolle be ſpeciall gode lord ferthymore as touchyng hys buryeng and month ys mynde kepyng that it be don worſhyplye accordyng to hys degree and for the helth of hys ſoule And that almeſſe be yeven yn maſs ſeyng and to pore peple to the ſome of a hu'dred mrcks tille that othyrwyſe we ſpeke to geder And I can agree ryzt well that hys ſ'unts haf theyr rewardeſ be tymes accordyng to hys wille to th'entent that they may be bett' diſpoſed and to pray for the wellfare of hys ſoule takyng avyſe of a lerned man yn ſpirituell lawe for no charge of admi'ſtracon tille the executo's com to ghedr or the moſte p't that hys trust was moſt uppon to tak the adm'ſtracon.

W. Winton.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

Part of a Bull.

Pl. ix. N^o 10.

William Wainfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter, the firſt of Sir John Faſtolf's Executors, was at this time Lord Chancellor, to whom the others applied for his advice and directions concerning the execution of his Will. He here gives them fully, but at the ſame time adviſes them to apply to ſome one learned in the ſpiritual-law concerning the adminiſtration, &c.

L E T

LETTER LXXXVIII.

BE it remembered that for as much as Sir John Fastolf, late deceased, of great affection, hath put me in trust to be one of his Executors, and since it is desired (*of*) me to know my disposition herein, mine advice is thus, that first an Inventory be made wholly of his goods and catell (*chattells*) in all places, and that they be laid in sure ward by your discretions, till the Executors, or the most part of those that he put his great trust upon, speak with me, and make declaration to me of his last will, to the accomplishment whereof I will be special good Lord.

Furthermore, as touching his burying and month's mind keeping, that it be done worshiply (*worshipfully*) according to his degree, and for the health of his soul, and that Alms be given in Masses saying, and to poor people, to the sum of an hundred Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) till that otherwise we speak together; and I can agree right well that his servants have their rewards betimes according to his Will, to the intent that they may be better disposed, and to pray for the welfare of his soul; taking advice of a learned man in spiritual law, for no charge of administration till the Executors come together, or the most part, that his trust was most upon, to take the administration.

WILLIAM WINTON.

November or December,

1459. 38 H. VI.

In times of popery the "Month's Mind" was a monthly solemnity in memory of the deceased, when prayers were offered, and Alms given for the health of his Soul, &c.

William Wainfleet was consecrated Bishop of Winchester in 1447, and continued there till his death, in 1486, just living to see the line of Lancaster, (to which he had ever been a well-wisher) restored to the crown in the person of Henry VII. He was a worthy prelate, and a man of great wisdom and integrity. Pl. XIX. N^o 22.

There is no address to these directions.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

*To our Right trusty and**intierly welbeloued Iohn**Paston Esquyer.*

RIGHT trusty and Right intierly welbeloued We grete you hertly wele And it is so as ye know wele your self We haf and long tyme haf had the fruite of Thomas Denyes by Contynuaunce Wherof we wend to haf had his attendaunce at our lust And neu'thelesse We haf so strictly examynid his demenyng that we fele and pleyndly conceyve that the love and effeccion which he hath to a gentilwoman not ferre from yow And which ye be p'vy to as we suppose causith hym alwey to desire toward your Cuntre rath'r than toward fuych ocupacon as is behovefull to us We write therfore to yow prayng yow hertly as ye love us that it like you to do that labo'r at our instaunce be fuych men as yo'r wisdom Can seme to meve that gentilwoman in our behalf for the wele of this mater undirtakyng for us that we wole shew our bounte to thaym bothe if it plese hir that this mater take effect so that be reason she shall haf cause to take it in gree. And if the Comyng thider of our p'sone self shuld be to plesir of hir we wole not leve our labo'r in that Wherfore we p'y you that ye wole do yo'r part heryn as ye wole we do for yow

We have here the private Letter of a great nobleman, wherein he interests himself in the welfare and happiness of his domestics in a manner so very pleasing, as to shew the goodness of his heart, and the kind attention which he paid to those connected with him.

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

To our right trusty and entirely well-beloved John Paston, Esq.

RIGHT trusty and right entirely well-beloved, we greet you heartily well, and it is so as ye know well yourself, we have, and long time have had the service of Thomas Denyes, by continuance whereof we wend (*thought*) to have had his attendance at our lust (*pleasure*), and nevertheless we have so straitly examined his demeaning that we feel and plainly conceive that the love and affection which he hath to a gentlewoman not far from you, and which ye be privy to, as we suppose, causeth him alway to desire towards your country, rather than towards such occupation as is behoveful to us. We write therefore to you, praying you heartily as ye love us, that it like you to do that labour at our instance by such mean, as your wisdom can seem, to move that gentlewoman in our behalf for the weal of this matter, undertaking for us, that we will shew our bounty to them both, if it please her that this matter take effect, so that by reason she shall have cause to take it in gree (*to be satisfied*;) and if the coming thither of our person self should be to (*the*) pleasure of her, we will not leave our labour in that; wherefore we pray you that ye will do your part herein, as ye will we do for you

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, an adherent to the House of Lancaster, was taken and beheaded in 1461, when he was nearly 55 years old. He married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, by which marriage he became possessor of Estates in Norfolk. Autograph. Pl. I. N^o 8.

in tyme Comyng And that ye fe us in haft The holy trinite
kepe yow Wretyn at Weuenho the xvij day of May.

The Erle of Oxenford.

Oxenford.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

L E T T E R .

*To oure trusty and welbeloved
John Paston Squier.*

By the King.

TRUSTY and welbeloved for asmuche as oure right
trusty and welbeloved the Lord Moleyns is by oure sp'al
Desire and comaundement waitting upon us And now for di-
vers consideracions moeving us We purpose to sende hym in to
certaine places for to execute oure comaundement for the whiche
he ne may be attendant to be in oure Countees of Northfolk
and Suffolk at the Time of oure Cōmissiōners sitting upon oure
Cōmissiōn of oier det'miner w'in the same oure Countees We
therfore desire and praye you that considering his attendance
upon us and that he must applie hym to execute oure cōmaun-

The matters here commanded by the King to be respited, were probably some disputes relative to the manor of Gresham, a moiety of which had been purchased by Sir William Paston the Judge, and the other moiety had belonged to Sir William Molyns, the present Lord Molyns's wife's ancestor.

As far as concerned his Lordship, perhaps a respite during his absence on the King's affairs might be necessary, but to extend that to his Tenants and Servants seems an hardship upon the person who was Plaintiff and thought himself aggrieved.

dem't

in time coming, and that ye see us in haste. The Holy Trinity keep you. Written at Wevenhoe, the 17th day of May.

The Earl of Oxford.

OXENFORD.

Wevenhoe, in Essex,

17th of May,

before 1460. 38 H. VI.

L E T T E R XC.

To our trusty and well-beloved John Paston, Esquire.

By the King.

TRUSTY and well-beloved, for as much as our right trusty and well-beloved the Lord Moleyns is by our special desire and commandment waiting upon us, and now for divers considerations moving us, We purpose to send him into certain places for to execute our commandments, for the which he ne may (*cannot*) be attendant to be in our Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk at the time of our Commissioners sitting upon our Commission of Oyer (*and*) Determiner within the same our Counties. We therefore desire and pray you, that considering his attendance upon us, and that he must apply him to execute

The Letter however is couched in the civiliest language possible, and sealed with the King's privy Seal on red Wax, having the Royal Arms of France and England quarterly, surmounted by a Royal Coronet, and encompassed with a Collar of SS. Pl. xxiii. N^o 2.

For the King's Autograph, see Pl. I. N^o 1.

dem't ye wol respite as for any thing attempting ayenst hym as for any matiers that ye have to do or seye ayenst hym or any oth'r of his Serv'nts Welwillers or tenaunts by cause of hym unto tyme he shal mowe be present to ansuere there unto Wherein ye shall ministere unto us cause of pleasur^e. and ov^r. that deserve of us right good thanke. Yeven under oure signet at oure paloys of Westminster the xvij day of Septemb'r.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
A Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. ix. N^o 14.

Seal,
The Royal Arms of England.
Pl. xxiii. N^o 2.

LETTER XCJ.

*To my right trusty and
welbeloved frende Iohn
Paston Squier.*

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved frend I grete you hertly wel And wul ye wite that Wotton is ev^r. creyng and calling upon me to write un to you for hise londe Wherfore at y^e rev^ence of good confideryng y^e Symplenesse of hem all I pray you that ye put hem at a c^ten and lete hem all yat they aught

to

our Commandment ye will respite as for any thing attempting against him, as for any matters that ye have to do, or say against him, or any other of his Servants, welwillers, or Tenants, because of him, unto time he shall mowe be (*be able to be*) present to answer thereunto; wherein ye shall minister unto us cause of pleasure, and over that, deserve of us right good thanks. Given under our Signet at our palace of Westminster, the 18th day of September.

Westminster,

18th of September,

before 1460. 39 H. VI.

See Letter XLIX.

Vol. I. p. 193.

L E T T E R XCI.

To my right trusty and well-beloved Friend, John Paston, Esq.

RIGHT trusty and well-beloved Friend, I greet you heartily well, and will ye weet that Wotton is ever crying and calling upon me to write unto you for his land; wherefore at the reverence of God considering the simpleness of them all, I pray you that ye put them at a certain (*certainly*) and let them all

to have of right for yaire creyng cause men to thinke ye do hem grete wrong which j wote wel ye wold be fory to do oure lord have you in hise gov'nance Writen at Midelton the xvj day of O&ob'r.

Youre frende,

Scales.

11 by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

I have given this Letter as somewhat perhaps helping us to form a character of J. Paston.

Thomas Lord Scales was a nobleman of great worth and loyalty; he was slain in 1460.

LETTER XCIII.

To my Mastir Iohn

Paston Esquier.

RIGHT Worshippful Sr. I recomaunde me unto you And please it you to witte of oure newe tydinges here as this day com writing both to my ¹lorde and to my lady from london that there be certein lettres directed to my lorde from my lady his ²moder and diu'se other lordes for to haue ³Danyell in his favor a geyne and as it is supposed by the meanes of the Duc of Som'rsette for he hath ben right Conv'saunte w^t hym all

¹ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, married Ellenor, daughter of William Bouchier, Earl of Ewe, in Normandy.

² Catharine, daughter of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland, and widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

this

all that they ought to have of right, for their crying cause men to think ye do them great wrong, which I wote (*know*) well ye would be forry to do.

Our Lord have you in his governance. Written at Middleton, the 16th day of October.

Your Friend,

SCALES.

Middleton,

16th of October,

before 1460. 39 H. VI.

For a further account of him, see Letter XXXIII. Vol. I. p. 136. Note 2, &c.

Autograph. Pl. I. N^o 12.

L E T T E R XCII.

To my Master John Paston, Esq.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, and please it you to weet of our new tidings here; as this day came writing both to my ¹ Lord and to my Lady from London that there be certain Letters directed to my Lord from my Lady his ² Mother, and divers other Lords for to have ³ Daniel in his favour again, and as it is supposed by the means of the Duke of Somerset, for he hath been right conversant with him all this

³ Thomas Daniel, Esq. was Constable of Rising-Castle, and married Margaret, sister of John Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

He is said to have been attainted in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. but afterwards restored and taken into favour.

this quart^r of this yere. And also thei y^t sente this writing fayn playnly that the lorde Skales is gode lorde to hym and y^t he hath p'mysed hym to make Sr Thomas Tudenh'm Heydon and hym accorded and other mē in the cuntre and that he shall be suffred to entre in to Brayston and kepe it to yentente y^t the cuntre shall thinke and my lorde also y^t he hathe grete favo^r amonge the lordes of the Counsell and cause men to fere hym ye more whether it be thus or non I can not say neu^r the lesse me thinketh ye shall sone knowe if Mounford will agree y^t he shall entre in to Brayston and if y^t be trewe all the remen't shall seme the more likly I pray you brenne this lett^r. when ye haue redde it. My lorde and my lady sayn ye shall be right welcome and ye will se theym this Crisemasse I reporte me to yo^r wisdom And god haue you in his keping Writon at Framlyngh'm the xvij day of Decembr.

Richard Southwell.

11 ½ by 6.

* Richard Southwell, Esq. married Amy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wichingham, of Wood-Rising, Esq. and so became possessor of that Estate. Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 27.

LET

quarter of this year. And also they that sent this writing say plainly that the Lord Scales is good Lord to him, and that he hath promised him to make Sir Thomas Todenham, Heydon, and him accorded, and other men in the country, and that he shall be suffered to enter into Brayston, and keep it to the entent that the country shall think, and my Lord also, that he hath great favour amongst the Lords of the Council, and cause men to fear him the more. Whether it be thus or no I cannot say, nevertheless me thinketh ye shall soon know if Mounford will agree that he shall enter into Brayston, and if that be true, all the remenant shall seem the more likely.

I pray you brenne (*burn*) this Letter when ye have read it. My Lord and my Lady say ye shall be right welcome, and (*if*) ye will see them this Christmas; I report me to your wisdom, and God have you in his keeping. Written at Framlingham, the 18th day of December.

4 RICHARD SOUTHWELL.

Framlingham,
18th of December,
Before 1460. 39 H: VI.

LETTER XCIII.

*To my ryght wyrshypfull
Mayster John Paston be
thys letter delyv^ryd in haste.*

RYGH T wyrshypfull husbond I recomaund me to you please it you to wyte that the cause that I wrote to you non er than I dyde after the Sessyons was by cause that Yelv^rton held sessyons at ¹ Dyrh'm and ² Walsyngh'm the next wyke after the Assyses and to haue knowlech what labo^r that was made ther and to have send you werd therof ther was grete labo^rs made by the Bayly of Coshay and other for to have endytyd your men both at Dyrh'm and at Walsyngh'm but I p^rvayd a mene that her p^rpose was lettyd at thos ij tymes Hugh a Fen ys in Flegge Ric Call spake w^t hym thys wyke and he sayd to Ric that he and hys wyff wold be w^t me here thys wyke toward a place of hys that he hath p^rchasyd of Godehreds yf he com J shall make hym gode Chyre for it ys told me of dyv's folks that haue spoke w^t hym sythen he Com in to Norff as thay fele by hys sayng that he awyth you ryght gode wyle. It' as for my
Comyng

The date of this Letter cannot be exactly fixed, though I believe it was written in 1460, or, if not then, it must have been written early in the reign of Edward IV. as I find there was a presentation to the Church of Drayton, both in 1460 and 1461, but Sir Thomas Haken was not the person presented on either of the vacancies.

¹ East Dereham, a market town, situated nearly in the centre of the county of Norfolk, we here find, in the fifteenth century, a place of sufficient consequence to have an adjournment of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace from Norwich held in it.

It has been since that period twice destroyed by fire, once on the 1st of July 1581, and again on the 3d of the same month, in 1679.

It is now, in the eighteenth century, a pleasant, handsome, and well-built town, inhabited by several respectable families, and furnished with many accommodations for genteel

L E T T E R XCHII.

To my right worshipful Master John Paston, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that the cause that I wrote to you, none ere than I did after the Sessions was, because that Yelverton held the Sessions at ¹ Dereham and ² Walsingham the next week after the Assizes, and to have knowledge what labour that was made there, and to have sent you word thereof; there was great labour made by the Bailiff of Cosey, and other, for to have endicted your men both at Dereham and at Walsingham, but I played a mean that their purpose was letted at those two times.

Hugh a Fenn is in Flegg, Richard Call spake with him this week, and he said to Richard that he and his wife would be with me here this week, towards a place of his that he hath purchased of Godered; if he come I shall make him good cheer, for it is told me of divers folks that have spoken with him, sithen (*since*) he came into Norfolk, as they feel by his saying, that he oweth you right good will.

genteel life. What it may be three centuries hence time only can discover; it has however the best wishes for its prosperity from the Editor of these Letters, who has spent amongst its inhabitants, and the neighbouring gentry, many pleasant and happy years.

² Walsingham was at this time remarkable for the Chapel and Image of our Lady, to which pilgrimages were undertaken from every quarter, and riches poured in from the superstitious benefactions of well-meaning votaries.

The general dissolution put a period to its importance, and the fine Abbey, now in ruins, makes venerable the gardens of Henry Lee Warner, Esq, and affords ample scope for serious meditations.

Comyng to you yf it please you that I Come y hope I shall p'vey so for al thyngs or I com that it shall be sayff y nogh by the grace of God tyll I com a yen but at the reverens of God yf ye may p'vey a mene that ye may Com hom your sylf for that shall be most p'fortabell to you for men cut large thongs here of other mens lether I shall wryte to you a yen as hastely as I may God haue you in hys kyping Wryten in haste at Haylesdon the Sonday next after the assumpcion of our lady.

It' my Cofyn Elyfabeth Clere ys at Ormesby and your Moder p'posyth to be at her place at Caister thys wyke for y^e ³ pestylens ys so feruent in Norwych that thay ther no lenger abyde ther so god help me thynkyth by my moder that she wold ryght fayn that ye dyde well and that ye myght spyde ryght well in your mater and me thynkyth by my Cofyn Clere that she wold fayn haue youre gode wyll and that she hath sworyn ryght faythfully to me that ther shall no defaute be founde in her nor noght hath be yf the trogh myght be understoud as she hopyth it shall be hereafter she sayth ther ys no man a lyff that she hath put her truste in so moch as she hath doon in you she sayth she wote well such langage as hath be reportyd to you of her other wyse then she hath des'vyd Causyth you to be other wyse to her then ye shuld be she had to me thys langage wypyng and told me of dyv's other thyngs the whych ye shall haue Knowlych of hereafter.

As for the hygh Shyrif he demenyd hym ryght well her to me and he sayd to me as for the Replevyns he wold aske counseyll of lernyd men what he mygt doo therin and as largely as he

³ I do not find any notice in history that any remarkable sickness raged at this time, either in Norwich, or in the kingdom at large.

Item, as for my coming to you, if it please you that I come, I hope I shall purvey so for all things ere I come, that it shall be safe enough by the grace of God till I come again; but at the reverence of God, if ye purvey a mean that ye may come home yourself, for that shall be most profitable to you, for "men cut large thongs here off other men's leather." I shall write to you again as hastily as I may, God have you in his keeping. Written in haste at Helleston, the Sunday next after the Assumption of our Lady.

Item, my Cousin Elizabeth Clere is at Ormsby, and your Mother purposeth to be at her place at Caister this week, for the Pestilence is so fervent in Norwich that they there no longer abide there, so God help; me thinketh by my Mother, that she would right fain that ye did well, and that ye might speed right well in your matters; and me thinketh by my Cousin Clere that she would fain have your good will, and that she hath sworn right faithfully to me, that there shall no default be found in her, nor nought hath been, if the truth might be understood, as she hopeth it shall be hereafter; she saith there is no man alive that she hath put her trust in, so much as she hath done in you, she saith she wot well such language as hath been reported to you of her, otherwise than she hath deserved, causeth you to be otherwise to her than ye should be; she had to me this language weeping, and told me of divers other things, the which ye shall have knowledge of hereafter.

As for the High Sheriff he demeaned him right well here to me, and he said to me, as for the Replevins he would ask counsel of learned men, what he might do therein, and as largely

mygt do ther in or in any other mater touchyng you savyng hymself harmlys he wold doo for you and for yours that he mygt do.

It'. I have do layd in the p'sentacyon of Drayton and have p'sentyd Sr Thom's Hakon p'son of Felthorp the whych is hold ryght a gode man and wel dysposyd and the Duck of Suff hath layd in a nother and ther shall be take an inquificyon ther uppon and Mr. Styvenys your a voked therin. Mr John Estgade ys passyd to God on thursday last passyd whos sawle God assoyle wherof in gode feyth I am ryght sory for I fynd hym ryght faythfull to you They deyy ryght sore in Norwych.

John Rus sayth the p'fets that hath be take of the man' of Caister syn Sr John * Fastolf deyed hath be take by Sr Thomas Howys and Jenney.

By yours,

5 *qq. p.*

12 by 12.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. viii. N^o 2.

I mervayll that ye had no tythyngs from me at that tyme that your letter was wryten for I send you a letter by Chytockys son that ys prenteys in London and the seyde letter was of the demenyng at the Assyes at Norwych and of divers other maters. I p'y you send me word yf ye have it as for the Replevyns Ric Calle sayth he hath send you a awnswere of hēm and also the copys of them.

* He died in November 1459.

LET

as he might do therein, or in any other matter touching you, saving himself harmless, he would do for you and for yours that he might do.

Item, I have do layd in (*caused to be laid in*) the presentation of Drayton, and have presented Sir Thomas Hakon, parson of Felthorp, the which is held right a good man, and well disposed; and the Duke of Suffolk hath laid in another, and there shall be taken an inquisition thereupon, and Master Stephen is your advocate therein.

Master John Estgate is passed to God on Thursday last past, whose Soul God assoil! whereof in good faith I am right sorry, for I find him right faithful to you; they die right fore in Norwich.

John Rufs saith the profits that hath been taken of the Manor of Caister, since Sir J. ⁴ Fastolf died hath been taken by Sir Thomas Howys and Jenney.

By yours,

^s MARGARET PASTON.

Helleddon,

Sunday after the

Assumption of our Lady,

17th of August, 1460. 38 H. VI.

I marvel that ye had no tidings from me at that time that your Letter was written, for I sent you a Letter by Chittock's son, that is prentice in London, and the said Letter was of the demeaning at the Affizes at Norwich, and of divers other matters.

I pray you send me word if ye have it; as for the Replevins Richard Calle saith he hath sent you an answer of them, and also the copies of them.

^s Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25a

LETTER XCIII.

*To the Right Revrent and
Worshippfull Iohn Paston
in haste.*

RIGHT Rev^{ent} and Worshippfull Sr And my right trusti
and welbelovid Cofin I recomaund me unto you praiyng
you hertily to remembr me unto my mast^r Radclyff so that by
yo^r gode meanes I shall mowe have his gode mast^rshipp the
whiche I have effectuely to my power sewed fore this iij yer
and nev^r des^rved the cont^{rye} to my knowlegge by my trouth
and if it can or may be founden that I have I will obeye me and
offr^e me to Abyde the rewle of you and my Cofin yo^r brothir
&c. Also my lord of ¹Caunt^{bury} mast^r Waltier ²Blakette will
help forthe if nede be And as to the Remen^{nt} of the lordes if
the case requir that ye may understand by yo^r. Wysdum thei be
displeased with me as I trust to God thei be not I besече you to
Remembr that I have aforetyme ben^e accused unto the King's
highnesse and the Quenes for owyng my pore gode will and
f^rvice unto my lord of York and oy^r &c. Wherof I suppose that
Thomas Bagh^m is remembred that I brought hym oones from
my lady a purs and v m^rc therin and to Sr. Phelipp Wenteworth
an oy^r and a C^s therin for their gode will and advise therin to my

This Letter appears to have been written towards the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. and refers to some former transactions when he appears to have been a retainer to the Duke of York, the exact date cannot be ascertained.

¹ Thomas Bouchier.

lady

LETTER XCIV.

To the right reverend and worshipful John Paston, in haste.

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Sir, and my right trusty and well-beloved Cousin, I recommend me unto you, praying you heartily to remember me unto my Master Radcliff, so that by your good means I shall and may have his good mastership, the which I have effectually to my power sued for this three years, and never deserved the contrary to my knowledge, by my truth, and if it can or may be found that I have, I will obey (*submit*) me, and offer me to abide the rule of you and my Cousin your Brother, &c.

Also my Lord of ¹ Canterbury, (*and*) Master Walter ² Blacket will help forth, if need be, and as to the remanent of the Lords, if the case require that ye may understand by your wisdom they be displeased with me, as I trust to God they be not, I beseech you to remember that I have afore time been accused unto the King's Highness and the Queen's for owing my poor good will and service unto my Lord of York and others, &c. whereof I suppose that Thomas Bagham is remembered that I brought him once from my Lady a purse and five Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) therein, and to Sir Philip Wentworth another, and an hundred Shillings therein for their good will, and advice therein to my Lady and

² This family came originally from the bishoprick of Durham, and a descendant of it was created a Baronet in 1673.

lady and all us that wer appelled for that cause notwithstanding the king wrote to my lord by the meanes of the Duc of ³ Somfette that we shuld be avoyded from hym &c. And within this ij yer we wer in like wise labored ageyns to the Quene so that she wrote to my ⁴ lord to avoyde us saiying that the King and she coude nor myght in no wise be assured of hym and my lady as long as we wer aboute hym w^t much oy^r thing as may be sufficiently p^rved by the Quenes Writing under herr own signett and signe manuell the whiche I shewd to my lord of Caunterbury and oy^r lordes &c. I prey you haue me excused that I encombr you w^t thees matiers at this tyme for me thinketh ye shuld will and desire me to do any thing to yo^r hon^r and pleas^r at any tyme Wherto I shal be redy and welwilled to my power by the grace of God who haue you ev^r in his keping and all yo^res Writon at Norwiche on seint Feithes day in haste.

Yo^res,

Ric.

Southwell.

11 1/2 by 6 1/4.

Paper Mark,

A Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.³ Beaufort, Duke of Somerset.⁴ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in whose household R. Southwell had an appointment.

E E E

all us that were appealed for that case, notwithstanding the King wrote to my Lord by the means of the ³ Duke of Somersset, that we should be avoided from him, &c. And within this two years we were in like wise laboured against to the Queen, so that she wrote to my ⁴ Lord to avoid us, saying that the King and she could nor might in no wise be assured of him and my Lady as long as we were about him, with much other thing, as may be sufficiently proved by the Queen's writing under her own signet and sign manual, the which I shewed to my Lord of Canterbury and other Lords, &c.

I pray you have me excused that I encumber you with these matters at this time, for me thinketh ye should will and desire me to do any thing to your honour and pleasure at any time, whereto I shall be ready and well-willed ever to my power by the grace of God, who have you ever in his keeping, and all yours.

Written at Norwich, on Saint Faith's day, in haste.

Yours,

⁵ RICHARD SOUTHWELL.

Norwich, 6th of October,

About 1460. 39 H. VI.

⁵ Richard Southwell married Amy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wichingham, of Wood-Rising, in Norfolk, and then made that his place of residence. His mother was of the family of Berry, and by that mean he became related to the Pastons.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 27.

LETTER XCII.

*To my Wurshipfull
Maister John Paston
Squier.*

MI Wurshipfull Maister I recomaunde me to you And I thanke you that it plesith you to take secche labo^r for me as ye doo my f^rv^{nt} tolde me ye desired to knowe what my lord of Norff^r seid to me whan I spake of you And he seid in asmeche as howard myght not be he wolde write a l^re to the Undershreve that the Shire shulde have fre elecon soo that S^r Thom^s ' Todenh^m wer no^t nor none that was toward the Duc of ' Suff^r he seid he knewe ye wer nev^r to hym ward ye may sende to the under-shreve and see my lord lre Howard was as wode as a wilde bullok god sende hym secche Wurshipp as he deservith it is a evill precedent for the shire that a straunge man shulde be chosyn and no Wurshipp to my lord off Yorke nor to my lord of Norff^r to write for hym For yf the lentialmen of the Shire will suffre fech inconvenyens in good feithe the shire shall no^t be called of
secche

Though this Letter shews us the influence of the great men in the Election of the Members of the House of Commons, yet it appears from it that in this case the Duke of Norfolk's power was limited, as he could not bring in his friend and relation Sir John Howard, for I conclude he was the person mentioned in the Letter, and his being called a "straunge man" most probably arose from his not having been resident in the County, as he

LETTER XCV.

To my worshipful Master John Paston, Esquire.

MY worshipful Master, I recommend me to you, and I thank you that it pleaseth you to take such labour for me as ye do, my servant told me ye desired to know what my Lord of Norfolk said to me when I spake of you, and he said in as much as Howard might not be, he would write a Letter to the Under Sheriff, that the Shire should have free Election, so that Sir Thomas ¹ Todenham were not, nor none that was toward the Duke of ² Suffolk; he said he knew ye were never to him ward; the Mayor sent to the Under Sheriff, and saw my Lord's Letter; Howard was as wode (*mad*) as a wild Bullock; God send him such worship as he deserveth; it is an evil precedent for the Shire that a strange man should be chosen, and no worship to my Lord of York, nor to my Lord of Norfolk to write for him; for if the Gentlemen of the Shire will suffer such inconvenience, in

afterward created Lord Howard. His Sovereign Richard III. granted him the title of Duke of Norfolk, as being descended from the heir-female of the Mowbrays, and with his royal master, he fell in the battle of Bosworth-field in 1485.

¹ Sir Thomas Todenham, a steady Lancastrian, was beheaded in 1461, upon a suspicion of having received Letters from Margaret, Queen of Henry VI. when he was about 62 years of age.

² John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

good

seche ³ Wurshipp as it hathe be Wreten atte Jntewode this Wednesday next after sceint John in haft.

Your f'vūt,

⁴ John Jenney.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. VIII. N^o 2.

³ It appears that Norfolk was in this age a County of great worship and consequence, owing to the riches, power, and ancestry of its inhabitants. May it ever continue so!

LETTER REUF.

To my Mayst^r

Jon Pastone

Esqwyer be this

lett^r p^rsented.

IH's Maria, &c.

RYTE Rev^{ent} Sire aft' du r'c'me'dacyon we fey i' this cu'tre that Heydon is for Barkschir i' the Comon hows And the ¹ lady of Suffolk hath sent up hyr ² sone and hise wyf to my lord of York to aske grace for a schir've the next yer Stapilton Boleyn or Tyrel q' absit God send zow Pony'g WP. W. Rokewode or Arblast' ze haf myche to done jhu spede zow ze haf many good preyers what of the Covent cyte And cu'tre

¹ Alice, Duchefs of Suffolk, Widow of William, Duke of Suffolk, beheaded at Sea, in 1450.

god

good faith the Shire shall not be called of such¹ worship as it hath been. Written at Intwood, the Wednesday next after Saint John, in haste.

Your Servant,

* JOHN JENNEY.

Intwood,

Wednesday

before 1460. 38 H. VI.

⁴ John Jenney married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Wetherby, the rich Alderman of Norwich, by whom he became possessed of the Intwood Estate. He died in 1497. Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 18.

L E T T E R XCVI.

To my Master John Paston, Esq. be this Letter presented.

Jesu, Maria, &c.

RIGHT reverend Sir, after due recommendation; we say in this country that Heydon is for Berkshire in the Commons House, and the ¹ Lady of Suffolk hath sent up her ² Son and his Wife, to my Lord of York, to ask grace for a Sheriff the next year, Stapilton, Boleyn, or Tyrel, qui abfit. God send you Poynings, W. Paston, W. Rokewood, or Arblaster, ye have much to do; Jesu speed you; ye have many good prayers, what of the Convent, City and Country; God save our good

¹ John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, married Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York.

Lords

god safe o' good lords Warwik alle hise brey' Salisbury &c. fro
 al fals covetyse and favo' of extorcyon as they will fle uttyr
 schame And co'fufyon God save hem and preserve fro trefon
 and poyson lete he' be war her of for the pite of god for yf owt
 Come to my lord Warwik but good far weel ze far weel j And
 al o' fr'nds for be the weye of my fowle this lond wer uttirly on
 done as god forbede her enmyes bofity' w^t. good to come to her
 favo' but god defende hem and zeve hem grace to knowe her
 fr'nds fro her enmyes and to cherifch and preferr her fr'nds and
 leffe the myte of alle her e'myes thorw owt the fchiris of the
 lond And my good lord Warwik w^t. my lord hise broy' Cha'n-
 celer And my lord her fadyr woldy' oppofyn as dede danyel
 Fortesku Alifa'ndir Hody Docto' Aleyn, Heydon And thorp of
 the ³ writy'g made be hem at covy'tr' p'leme't. they fchuld an-
 fwer wers tha' ⁴ f'b'cino or sub privo And this g'naly wold j fey
 at Powlys cros &c. And j fchuld Come ther' &c. It is v'ifyed
 of he' 1^o *Jer'mie* 8^o v'e me'daciū op'at' e' ftill' me'dax fcribaru'
 &c. And thi'k of two vers of zo' Sawter Sc'bant' h' i' g'n'a^{oe}
 alt'a. h'. f. p'liame'ti & p'p' q' cr'abit' laudab' d'n'm &c. Delea't'
 ecia' t'les p'v'fi fc'ptor's de lib^o vive' ciu' & cu' iust's no' fc'bant'
 & no' pl'ra fz vos v'ros & v'ra c'fervet ihs g'c'ofe i' prosp'is & g'
 co'fius dirigat i' age'd's Ex Norwico Fe' 4'. nūc'o festina'te.

³ This relates to the Bill of Attainder mentioned in the preceding Letter.

And

Lords Warwick, all his brethren, Salisbury, &c. from all false covetise (*covetousness*) and favour of extortion, as they will flee utter shame and confusion ; God save them and preserve (*them*) from treason and poison, let them beware thereof, for the pity of God ; for if ought come to my Lord Warwick but good, farewell ye, farewell I, and all your friends ; for by the way of my soul, this land were utterly undone, as God forbid their Enemies boasting with good to come to their favour, but God defend them, and give them grace to know their Friends from their Enemies, and to cherish and prefer their Friends, and lesse (*lessen*) the might of all their Enemies throughout the Shires of the land, and (*of those who*) my good Lord Warwick with my Lord his Brother (*the*) Chancellor, and my Lord their Father would oppose, as did Daniel, Fortescu, Alexander, Hody, Doctor Aleyn, Heydon and Thorpe ; of the ³ writing made by them at Coventry Parliament, they should answer worse than ⁴ sub cino or sub privo, (*or primo*) and this generally would I say at Paul's Cross, &c. and (*if*) I should come there, &c.

It is verified of them (*Jeremiah viii. 8.*) “ vere mendacium operatus est stilus mendax Scribarum, &c.” And think of two verses of your Psalter “ Scribantur hæc in generatione alterâ (hujus, scilicet, parliamenti) et populus qui creabitur laudabit Deum.” (*Psal. ci. cii. v. 18.*) “ Deleantur etiam tales perversi scriptores de libro viventium & cum justis non scribantur” (*Psal. lxviii. lxix. v. 28.*) Et non plura, sed vos, vestros & vestra conservet Jesus graciose in prosperis & graciosius dirigat in agendis. Ex Norwico feria 4^{ta}, nuntio festinante.

⁴ Q? The meaning of this expression. Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 25.

And j pr'y zow for godds sake to be good mayst' to jo' lyfter
&c. And j pr'y zow thi'k i' this p'leme't of the text of holy
sc'pt'e q' cunqz fec'it c'tra lege' dei & c't' lege' r'g's judi^m fiet de
eo l i' c'de'pnac'oz f'bfstan^e ei^s vel i' carc'em l i' exiliu' l i' morte'
p^o esdre vij^o & p'ti 2^o esdre 8^o.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. N^o 2.

LETTER XXIII.

To the rite worshipful

Esqwyrr jon Paston

be this presentid.

Ihs Maria joh' Baptista Francisc' cu' f'cis o'ibz Assista't' vobis
v'ris in laboribus Amen.

WORSCHIPFUL And most i'terely bitrustid mayst'
And specyal Frend Aft' Dute of al lowly r'c'me'dacyon
ze schal c'ceyve that j c'tesie zow for tr'wthe j Comonyd late w^t.
a worschipful and a wele namyd a good thrifty man of this
cu'tre which told me i' secrete wyse that he herd Docto' Aleyn
seyn aft' the p'leme't of 'Covintre that yf the lords that tyme
Reyny'g

After the disperfion of the Duke of York's army near Ludlow, the government of
course came into the hands of the King's party, and consequently the Friends of that
party were then in employment, and so continued till the following Summer, when
the

And I pray you for God's sake to be good Master to John Lyfter, &c. And I pray you think in this parliament of the text of Holy Scripture "quicumque fecerit contra legem Dei, & contra legem Regis, judicium fiet de eo, vel in condemnationem substantiæ ejus, vel in carcerem, vel in exilium, vel in mortem," 1^{mo} Esdræ vii. v. 26, & p. 2^o Esdræ. 8vo.

JOHN BRACKLEY.

Norwich, Thursday

1460. 39 H. VI.

L E T T E R XCVII.

To the right worshipful Esquire, John Paston, be this presented.

Jesus, Maria, Johannes Baptista, Franciscus, cum Sanctis omnibus assistant vobis vestris in laboribus. Amen.

WORSHIPFUL and most entirely betruſted Maſter and ſpecial Friend, after duty of all lowly recommendation, ye ſhall conceive, that I certify you for truth; I communed late with a worſhipful and a well named, a good thrifty man of this country, which told me in ſecret wiſe, that he heard Doctor Aleyn ſay after the Parliament of ¹ Coventry, that if the

the battle of Northampton proved fatal to his cauſe, Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, and John Viſcount Beaumont, with others his chief Counſellors and Commanders being then ſlain.

¹ Held in December 1459.

Reyny'g And now discessid myte haf standy' i' gov'nans that Fortesku the justice Docto' Mor'ton jon Heydon Thorp and he schuld be made for evir And yf it turny'd to c'trary wyse it schuld growe to her fynal c'fusyon and uttyr destruccyon For why the p'lyows Writig And the myschevous inditi'g was ymagini'd co'trivi'd and utt'ly co'cludid by her most vengeable labo' &c. And her most malicyows. ² c'spiracye ayens the i'nocent lords knytis gentilis and comonys And alle her jssu p'petuel &c. and as j wrote last to zo' mayst'schip the text of *jer'mie c^o. 8^o. v^e* me'daciu' op'at' e' stil' me'dax se'baru' it folwith i' the same place co'fusi su't sapie'tes p'territi & capti su't v'bu' d'ni p'ieceru't & sap'ia n'lla e' i' eis. p'p'ia dabo mulier's eoru' ext'is. Agros eoru' heredibz alie'is &c. j wolde my' lord Cha'nceler And my spe-cyal lord Erl utia'z Duke of Wa'rwyk w' al her tr'we affynyte schuld reme'bre this text which is holy sc'pt'e &c. As j wold do by for the ky'g And hise lords and at the ³ Cros for the p'ncipil of this text hath be.c'tynued in dayly exp'iens sithe bifor' the p'leme't of ⁴ Bury But the co'clufyon of this text came nev' zet to exp'iens And that is gr't rewthe. De D'noru' fidelium atqz co'ni' morte fat's i' iuriosa m'ltiformit' lame'tanda d'sc'nendo p' si'gula ex pauc's scit d'sc'c'o v'ra p'pender' pl'ra &c. & ubi ego.

² This relates to the Attainders passed against the Duke of York, the Earl of March, &c. &c. whereby their Estates were confiscated, and they and their posterity declared incapable of inheritance to the fourth generation. For the list of those then attainted, see Vol. I. Letter XLV. Note at the end.

³ St. Paul's Cross, where public Sermons were preached.

⁴ The Parliament assembled at Bury St. Edmund's, in Suffolk, in February 1446, 25 H. VI. where the Duke of Gloucester was murdered.

This Letter abounds with Quotations from the Holy Scriptures, in the Writer's opinion pertinent to the disorders and vicissitudes of the times.

Lords that time reigning, and now deceased might have standyn
(continued) in governance, that Fortescu the Justice, Doctor
 Morton, John Heydon, Thorp and he, should be made for
 ever; and if it turned to contrary wise, it should grow to their
 final confusion and utter destruction; for why, the perilous
 writing, and the mischievous indicting was imagined, contrived,
 and utterly concluded by their most vengeable labour, &c. and
 their most malicious² conspiracy against the innocent Lords,
 Knights, Gentles, and Commons, and all their issue perpetual,
 &c. And as I wrote last to your mastership the text of Jeremiah,
 Chap. viii. "vere mendacium operatus est stilus mendax Scriba-
 rum," it followeth in the same place, "Confusi sunt sapientes,
 perterriti & capti sunt; verbum Domini projecerunt, & sapientia
 nulla est in eis; propterea dabo mulieres eorum exteris; agros
 eorum hæredibus alienis, &c. (*Jeremiah viii. 8, 9, 10.*)

I would my Lord Chancellor, and my special Lord Earl, utinam,
 Duke of Warwick, with all their true affinity should remember
 this text which is Holy Scripture, &c. as I would do before the
 King and his Lords, and at the³ Cross; for the principle of this
 text hath been continued in daily experience sith (*since*) before
 the Parliament of⁴ Bury; but the conclusion of this text came
 never yet to experience, and that is great ruth "De Dominorum
 fidelium atque Communium morte satis injuriosa multiformiter
 lamentanda, discernendo per singula, ex paucis scit discretio vestra

The latter part of it is in the familiar Latin of the age. In a Note at the end of the
 second Letter in the first Volume of this work, I gave my opinion that the Character
 (there explained and referred to) signified Jesu Maria; these Letters of Dr. Brackley
 confirm that opinion, as all his Letters have a beginning in words at length, where
 these very words are used with others following them: this very Letter beginning:

"Jesus, Maria, Johannes Baptista, &c. &c."

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 25.

perpen-

fel' i' e'ce pauli pala' p'dicavi hu'c tex^m No' c'das i'imico tuo i'
 et'nu' ecc' 12° & q'da' h' r'gni doctor & ep's. uti'az no' i'dign'
 afferuit eu'de' tex^m Sc'pt'e facr' no' i'corp'atu' q' doctor Nich's
 de li'ra Sup' eu'de' tex^m dicit Sapie'ti no' i'fipi^{ti} scribo Pl'ra
 habeo v're r'v'en' sc'ber' q' ja' no' expedit calamo co'me'dar'.
 Uxor joh'is Berney de Redh'm ia i'fra triduu' pep'it filiu' &c.
 Mag'ra mea ux' v'ra sana e' cu' filiis v'ris & filiabz. & to' fa'ilia
 c't's nost' i't' cet'os h't statu' v'r'm sp'alissi'e r'c'me'datu' i' missis
 ac or'o'ibz c'fuet's qz suffragiis & cu' ia' sit's i' p'lia^{to} p'nti p'
 milite el'co. Uti vob' c'fulo v'b' Pauli Ap'li. labora sic bon'
 miles ihu X^t. & alibi job ute'do v'b' milicia sup' t'ra' e' vita
 ho'is job i° viril'r g' agite & confortet' cor v'r'm q' sp'at's i' d'no
 i' p° Q' i'q' sapie's sperav' i' d'no & c'fus' e' & p'ma' sit i' ma'-
 dat's d'i & der'lict' e' q. d. null'. Ex Norwico Fe' v' p'f'm
 f'c'i luce enva'geliste 5.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark:

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. viii. No 2.

5 The Editor hopes for the Reader's indulgence if he have, in some instances, mis-
 taken the sense intended by the Latin contractions in Dr. Brackley's Letters.

He consulted a learned and ingenious friend, who likewise took some pains to decy-
 pher them; some, however, the Editor fears have eluded both this Gentleman's and his
 own endeavours to explain them.

P. U. M.

perpendere plura, &c. & ubi ego (scilicet in ecclesia Pauli) palam predicavi hunc textum “Non credas inimico tuo in æternum” (*Eccle. xii. 10*, &c.) & quidam hujus regni Doctor & Episcopus, utinam non indignus, afferuit eundem textum Scripturæ Sacræ non incorporatum, quare Doctor Nicholas de Lira super eundem textum dicit, &c. &c. Sapienti non insipienti scribo, plura habeo vestræ reverentiæ scribere, quæ jam non expedit calamo commendare. Uxor Johannis Berney de Reedham jam infra tri-duum peperit filium, &c. Magistra mea uxor vestra sana est cum filiis vestris & filiabus & totâ familiâ. Cognatus noster inter cæteros habet statum vestrum specialissime recommendatum in missis ac orationibus, consuetisque suffragiis; & cum jam sitis in parlamento præsentis pro milite electo, uti vobis consulo verbis Pauli Apostoli, “Labora sicut bonus Miles Jesu Christi.” (2 *Tim. ii. 3.*) & alibi, Job utendo verbis, “Militia super terram est vita hominis,” (*Job vii. 1.*) “Viriliter igitur agite, & confortetur cor vestrum, qui speratis in Domino, (*Psal. xxx. xxxi. 24.*) Quis, inquit sapiens, speravit in Domino & confusus est, & permansit in mandatis Domini, & derelictus est? q. d. nullus. Ex Norwico feria quinta post festum Lucæ Evangelistæ 5.

JOHN BRACKLEY.

Norwich,

Thursday

23d October, 1460,

39 H. 6.

NUM-

NUMBER XCIII.

* *An ancient Whitsunday Sermon, preached by Frier Brackley
(whose Hand it is) at the Friars Minors Church, in Norwich.*

FRIENDS this holy tyme as ovr mod' holy chirch maketh
mention the holy goſt came from hevyn and lighted in
the diſciples of Criſt inflamying them w^t co'nyng and ſtrenghyng
them w^t g'ce and be cauſe the doctrine and p'chyng of them
ſhuld go thurghought all the werd firſt thei wer to be enformed
and taught co'ny'g and to be ſtrenth w^t awdacide and g'ce and
than to be endewed and yovyn all man' of langags y^t thei myght
p'chyn to all man' of nac'ones So that tho nac'ones y^t thei
p'ched to myght und'ſtond them and ev'y nac'ones his owyn
tonge and ſo thees Appoſtilles aff' that thei wern enſpired w^t
the holy goſt wher So ev' thei p'ched wer y' nev' ſo many nac'o'es
p'ſent ich nac'on thought y^t thei ſpokyn in ther owyn langage
etn. ill'd loq^obant' varijs liguis ap'li Friends iij thyngs be ne-
ceſſary in p'chy'g to hym y^t ſhall p'chyn thurgh y^e werd as the
Appoſtell dede y^t is to ſey co'nyng boldneſſe and langags if thei
had had co'nyg and no' audacite but have fered to have p'ched
it ſhuld litill a p'fited as we have examplles dayly at Cambrige

We have in this Sermon of Dr. Brackley, a curious ſpecimen of pulpit eloquence and divinity in the reign of Henry VI. commemorating the deſcent of the Holy Ghoſt upon the Apoſtles, &c. under the viſible appearance of fiery tongues.

We are next informed of the three requiſites for a Preacher of the Goſpel, and of the divine aſſiſtance which the Apoſtles received, to enable them to preach with effect.

He then ſets before his audience the vanity of earthly joys and the immenſity of heavenly ones, both by precept and example.

N U M B E R XCVIII.

* *An ancient Whitsunday Sermon, preached by Friar Brackley (whose Hand it is) at the Friars Minors Church in Norwich.*

FRIENDS, this Holy time as our mother holy Church maketh mention, the Holy Ghost came from Heaven, and lighted in the Disciples of Christ, inflaming them with cunning and strengthening them with grace. And because the doctrine and preaching of them should go throughout all the werd (*world*); first they were to be informed and taught cunning (*skill or knowledge,*) and to be strengthened with audacity (*confidence*) and grace, and then to be endowed (*with*) and given all manner of languages, that they might preach to all manner of nations, so that those nations, that they preached to, might understand them, and every nation his own tongue. And so these Apostles after that they were inspired with the Holy Ghost, wheresoever they preached, were there never so many nations present, each nation thought that they spoke in their own language, etenim illud loquebantur variis linguis Apostoli.

Friends, three things be necessary in preaching to him that shall preach through the world as the Apostles did, that is to say, cunning, boldness, and languages; if they had had cunning and none audacity, but have feared to have preached, it should little a (*have*) profited, as we have examples daily at Cambridge, ex-

His texts are chosen with propriety, and his examples, as adduced, have their effect.

There are in two or three places a few quotations which, from the smallness of the hand, and the badness of the writing, I have been obliged to give up as illegible.

As the exact year in which this sermon was preached cannot be ascertained, I have placed it to follow the last Letter, written by the Author of it.

* This is written on the back of the paper containing the Original Sermon.

ex' de cli'co q^s studuit sermonem &c. ? And if thei have bothyn
 co'nyng and audacite and have no' eloquensye ner copio^snesse of
 langage so y^t he p'che y^t his Audiens is most excercised in y^t thei
 may und'stand hym ell' it p'fiteth not y'for thes holy Appostill
 be for thei shuld p'chyn furst y^ei wer to be c'f'med and strenghed
 o' lord strenghed them be und' nemyng enf'myg and helpyng
 culpando ut i' ev'ngel' recu'bentibz &c. he strenghed them w^t
 his help and g'ce whan he brethed i' them feyng Accipite sp'm
 sc'm & q'r' rēns'it's p'cc'a rem'tn't' eis & q'r' retnts retenta sūt
 &c. he strenghed them Also be his doctrine whan he seid petite
 & accipietis si q'd petierit's pre'z in noi'e meo dab' vob. how
 y^t ye shuld p'yn to god and askyn j taught you on estern day
 y'for ye shall p'y to god be good werkyng right full leby'ing
 and in good deds p'fey'ng Friends ye owe for to Ask of god
 y^t yo' joy may ben a full joy and p'fight we may nev' have a
 full joy in this werd wher as ev' among folwyth hevynesse A
 man joyth fūtye in gold and sylv' and in gret substaunce of
 erdly gods in bewte of women but y^s joy is not p'fyght but y^s
 ioy is not stabill but it is mutabill as a shadow for he y^t y^s ioyth
 in the bewte of his wyffe it may fortune to morwyn he shall
 folwyn her to chirch up on a bere but if ye wull knowyn what
 is a full and a wery joy truly forgevenesse of fynne and ev'lestyng
 blisse wher as is nev' fikenesse hung' ner thurst ner no man' of
 disseas but all welth joy and p'sp'ite &c. Ther be iij ma' of
 joys

empli gratia, de Clerico quis studuit sermonem, &c. And if they have both cunning and audacity, and have none eloquency, nor copiousness of language, so that he preach that (*which*) his Audience is most exercised in, that they understand him, else it profiteth not.

Therefore these holy Apostles before they should preach, first they were to be confirmed and strengthened. Our Lord strengthened them by under nemyng, informing, and helping (*culpando q?*) ut in Evangelium recumbentibus, &c.

He strengthened them with his help and grace when he breathed in them, saying "Accipite spiritum sanctum, & quorum remiseritis peccata, remittuntur eis, & quorum retinueritis retenta sunt, &c." (*John* xxix. v. 22, 23.) he strengthened them also by his doctrine, when he said "Petite & accipietis; si quid petieritis patrem in nomine meo, dabit vobis." (*John* xvi. v. 23, 24.) How that ye should pray to God and ask, I taught you on Easter-day; therefore ye shall pray God by good working, right full labouring, and in good deeds persevering.

Friends, ye ought for to ask of God that your joy may be a full joy and perfect; we may never have a full joy in this world, whereas ever among followeth heaviness. A man joyeth sometimes in gold and silver, and in great substance of earthly goods, in beauty of women, but this joy is not perfect, but this joy is not stable, but it is mutable as a shadow; for he that thus joyeth in the beauty of his wife, it may fortune to-morrow he shall follow her to church upon a bier; but if ye will know what is a full and a very joy, truly forgiveness of sin, and everlasting bliss, whereas is never sickness, hunger, nor thirst, nor no manner of disease, but all wealth, joy, and prosperity, &c. There be three manner of joys, the one void, another half full, the third is

joys y' on void a noy' half full y' thred is a full joy the furst is plente of werdly gods y^e ij^{de} is gostly g'ce the iij^{de} is ev'lestyng blisse The furst joy y^t is affluens of temp'all gods is called a veyn joy for if a man wer set at a bord w^t delicate mets and drynks and he sey a Cawdron boyllly'g a forn hym w^t pykke and bronstan in the which he shuld be throwyn naked As sone as he had dyned for he shuld joy mych in his delic'ose mets it shuld be but a veyn joy right so doth y^e joy of a covetouse man if he sey what peyn his fowle shuld suffre in helle for y^e myskepyn and getyn of his good he shuld not joy in his treso' ut in libro decalogor' quida' ho' dives &c. Semiplenu' gaudiu' est qu' q's in p'senti gaudz & tu'c cogitans de futur's dolet ut i' q^od'm libro greco quida' rex grece &c. her ye may se but half a ioy how shuld ioy in this werd if he remembred hym of the peynes of the tod' werd No' gl'ie't' fortes in fortitudi'e sua nec sapiens in sapi'a sua nec dives i' divitijs suis de q'bz di'. q' c'fidu't in multitudi'e divicijar' suar' q'i oves i' inferno positi su't. Qui gl'iat in d'no gl'iet'

y^rfor lete us joy in hope of ev'lestyng joy and blis

Gaudete q' noia vra sc'pta sūt in celo ut gaudiū vrū fit plenū
a full joy is in hevyn

Et in hoc app'et q^d magnū gaudiū est ī celo qū ibi ē gaudiū. q^d occ'ls nō vid^t n̄ auris audi^t & in cor hoīs nō ascend^t q' De' pp'avit diligetibz & id' fr'es variis liguīs loquens ut gaudiū v'rūm sit plenū v. h'eatis gaudiū sempit^r.

6 ½ by 12.

Paper Mark
Wheels, &c.

Pl. xxii. N^o 10.

ECT

a full joy; the first is plenty of worldly goods; the second is ghostly grace; the third is everlasting bliss. The first joy, that is affluence of temporal goods, is called a vain joy, for if a man were set at a board with delicate meats and drinks, and he saw a cauldron boiling afore him with pykke (*pitch*) and brimstone, in the which he should be thrown naked, as soon as he had dined; for (*if*) he should joy much in his delicose (*delicious*) meats, it should be but a vain joy.

Right so doth the joy of a covetous man, if he see what pain his soul shall suffer in hell, for the miskeeping and getting of his goods, he should not joy in his treasure, ut in libro Decalogorum "Quidam homo dives, &c."

Semiplenum gaudium est quando quis in presenti gaudet & tunc cogitans de futuris dolet; ut in quodam libro Græco, &c. "Quidam Rex Græciæ, &c." here ye may see but half a joy; who should joy in this world, if he remembered him of the pains of the other world? "Non gloriatur fortis in fortitudine suâ, nec sapiens in sapientiâ suâ, nec dives in divitiis suis;" (*Jer. ix. 23.*) de quibus dicitur, qui confidunt in multitudine divitiarum suarum, quasi oves in inferno positi sunt, (*Psal. xlviii. xlix. 6, 14.*) "Qui gloriantur, in Domino glorientur." (*Jer. ix. 24.*) therefore let us joy in hope of everlasting joy and bliss.

Gaudete quia nomina vestra scripta sunt in cælo, ut gaudium vestrum sit plenum. (*Luc. x. 20.*)

A full joy is in heaven.

Et in hoc apparet, quod magnum gaudium est in cælo, quoniam ibi est gaudium quod "oculos non vidit, nec auris audivit, et in cor hominis non ascendit, quæ Deus preparavit diligentibus," (*1 Cor. ii. 9.*) et ideo Fratres, variis linguis loquens, (*precor*) ut gaudium vestrum sit plenum, vel, habeatis gaudium sempiternum.

L E T -

LETTER XCIII.

*To the ryght Worcheffull
Sere Mayster Iohn Stokes.*

RYGH T wthhypfull Sere I recomaund me to yow and for
asmyche as it is informyd me yat it was appoynted yat
alle the executors of the wthshepfull knyght Sere Iohn Fastolf
whos Soule god asoyle shuld be at london as on Monday next
Comyng Of wheche executors J. am namyd for on as I on-
dyrstond Wherefore in as myche as ye be ordenary. And on of
ye fame executors I prey yow tendre my laboure wthoute my
Comyng be youre dyscrecon myght be more p^rfy t to the dede.
For I Consfeyue it shuld be but charge to ye dede and lytell
avayleable Consfyderyug yat John Paston Squyere and Thom^s
Howys p^rson of Blofeeld schall Come up at yis time wheche
y^e p^rsones aboue all other yat ye seyde Sere John Fastolf put in
hys most sengulere loue and trust And wold they shuld haue y^e
kepyng and dysposicon of hys goods as wele in hys lyue as after
hys deaseas to dyspose for ye well of hys Soule And that non
other namyd hys executors but only they tweyn shuld haue ony
kepyng or dysposyng of ony part of hese goods duryng ther lyues
And that alle other namyd executors shuld supporte them and

We see here that the Abbot of Langley desires to be excused attending in London as one of the Executors of Sir John Fastolf; we learn moreover that Sir John himself desired particularly that the whole execution of his Will should rest with J. Paston and Thomas Howys. Master John Stokes was a Doctor of Laws, a Civilian, and an officer of the Bishop's Court.

Nicholas occurs Abbot of Langley in 1428 and in 1463; he must therefore have been at this time an old man. Pl. xx. N^o 32.

yeue

L E T T E R XCIX.

To the right worshipful Sir, Master John Stokes.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, and for as much as it is informed me, that it was appointed that all the Executors of the worshipful Knight Sir John Fastolf, whose Soul God assoil ! should be at London as on Monday next coming, of which Executors I am named for one as I understand ; wherefore in as much as ye be Ordinary, and one of the same Executors, I pray you tender my labour without my coming by your discretion might be more profit to the dead, for I conceive it should be but charge to the dead and little available considering that John Paston, Esquire, and Thomas Howys, parson of Blofield, shall come up at this time, which were the persons above all others that the said Sir John Fastolf put in his most singular love and trust, and would they should have the keeping and disposition of his goods, as well in his life as after his decease, to dispose for the weal of his Soul ; and that none other named his executors, but only they twain should have any keeping or disposing of any part of his goods during their lives ; and that all other named executors should support them, and give them to

This Abbey was founded by Sir Robert Fitz Roger, Helke or de Clavering, in 1198. 10 R. I. It was an Abbey of considerable possessions, and became the burial-place of a great number of persons of rank and fortune.

The Seal of the Abbey fastens the Letter ; it is an oval one on red wax, but though imperfect, I have delineated it. Pl. xxiii. N^o 5.

the

geue them to y^e seyde John Paston and Thom's Howys here good avyse in performyng of hys desyre in that behalve. Wherfor yat it lekyth yow in ony thyng ye desyre me to do in thys cause or matere to geue yowre feyth and credence to y^e seyde John Paston and Thom's Howys. And so desyred me y^e seyde knyght feythefully to do that knowyth god Whom I be seke preferue yow from alle aduerfite Wretyn in y^e Abbey of langeley the viij day of y^e monyth of May the yeere of oure lord m^{ll} cccc. lx.

Youre Preeft,

Abbot of langeley.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

Pillar and Crose.

Pl. xxi. N^o 7.

Imperfect Seal of the Abbey.

The Virgin sitting in a Tabernacle, &c.

Pl. xxiii. N^o 3.

L E T T E R C.

To my right Worchipful

Maister Iohn Paston Sqwyer.

RIGHT worchipful Maister I recomaunde me un to yow desiryng to knowe of youre welfare and p'speryte wheche ihu maynteyne and encreese to his pleser after youre hertys desyre thankyng yow eu' of youre good maistership to me shewed at alle tymes withoute deserte on my behalve. p'ying yow and

hirtely

the said John Paston and Thomas Howys their good advice in performing of his desire in that behalf; wherefore that it liketh you in any thing ye desire me to do in this cause or matter to give your faith and credence to the said John Paston and Thomas Howys, and so desired me the said Knight faithfully to do, that knoweth God, whom I beseech preserve you from all adversity. Written in the Abbey of Langley, the 8th day of the month of May, the year of our Lord 1460.

Your Priest,

The ABBOT of Langley.

Abbey of Langley,

Thursday, 8th of May,

1460. 38 H. VI.

L E T T E R C.

To my right worshipful Master, John Paston, Esquire.

RIGHT worshipful Master, I recommend me unto you, desiring to know of your welfare and prosperity, which Jesu maintain and increase to his pleasure after your heart's desire, thanking you ever of your good mastership to me shewed at all times without desert on my behalf, praying you and hear-

hertely besechyng of youre goode contynuaunce please it yowre
maister ship for as moche as it moved on to y^e my good maisters
y^e Counsell of y^e dueche of lancastr y^e they be weelwillyng to
make laboure on to my Sov'eyn Lady y^e Qween at youre good
instaunce for certeyn tymber toward my dortour at Bromholm
in wheche myn speeyall desyre is to haue viij p'ncypall beemys
euych on in length xj zerds I am not expeert in makying of any
supplicacon besechyng youre maister ship to take it uppon you to
do it make after youre avyce alegged all pou'te as youre wor-
chipfull discrecon can moche bett^r than I can enforme and J re-
mitte all to youre wyfdam eu^r besechyng you to Calle y^r matyer
to youre remembraunce No more at y^r tyme but y^e holy T'nite
mote haue yow in his gou'unce and sende you longe lyf to en-
dure to his pleser Wreten the xiiij^e day of Octobr.

Youre Preeft and chapeleyn,

John Pour of Bromholm.

11 1/2 by 4 1/4.

We have here an application from the Prior of Bromholm to the Queen, for a gift of some Timber from off the Lands belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster, of which there are many in the County of Norfolk. The petitioner seems modest in his request, asking only for eight beams, each to be 33 feet long, from which circumstance the size of the dormitory can be nearly ascertained.

tilly beseeching of your good continuance, please it your mastership for as much as it (*is*) moved unto the my good masters the Counsel of the Duchy of Lancaster, that they be well willing to make labour unto my Sovereign Lady the Queen of your good instance for certain timber toward my Dortour (*Dormitory*) at Bromholm, in which mine especial desire is to have eight principal beams, every one in length eleven yards. I am not expert in making of any supplication, beseeching your mastership to take it upon you to do it make after your advice, alledged all poverty as your worshipful discretion can much better than I can inform, and I remit all to your wisdom ever beseeching you to call this matter to your remembrance. No more at this time, but the Holy Trinity mote (*please*) have you in his governance, and send you long life to endure to his pleasure. Written the 14th day of October.

Your Priest and Chaplain,

JOHN, Prior of BROMHOLM.

14th of October,

1460, 39 H. VI.

or 1465, 5 E. IV.

John Titleshale was Prior of Bromholm from 1460 for about twenty years. This Letter must have been written therefore either on the 14th of October 1460, or on the same day in 1465, as Edward IV. married in that year, and J. Paston died in May 1466.

If it was written in the former year, the request must have been to Queen Margaret; if in the latter, to Elizabeth the Queen of Edward IV.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 33.

L E T T E R C J.

*Amicabil magro nro**Iohi Paston Armiger'*

FUL rev^{end} and worshipful after all dewe rev^{ence} and re-
cōmendacion yo^r pore p^{te} besecheth humble it plese yo^r
good maystirship to understande be yis simple bylle yat on ye
Friday next after ye feste of ye conu^sion of seynt poule laste paste
I was at yo^r place at Castre to a tolde yow what answer I hadde
of Sir Thom['] Howis p^r Son of Blofeld and in as moche as ye
wer not at hoom I tolde it to my mastras yo^r wyfe And god
yanke her of her jentilnes she made me grete cher. And mor ou^r
a vyfed me to sende yow a bille yer of to lundon. yis was his
answer whan I had talked to hym as I cowde in lyke wyse as ye
au[']ted me to do. he answered a geyn in yese wordes. nere is my
kyrtyl but nerre is my smok. And yis was his menyng yat ye
schulde be mor ner us and tender to us yan he and yat ye schulde
rather owe us good wyl yan he and yat we schulde labour rather
to yowr maystirship yan to hym and also yat good yat he had to
dispose he had be sette it and of passel he tolde me he had de-
lyu[']ed ye abbot of langele fourescor. li. Wher of as he seyde
to me ye grutched and wer in man^r displefed. not withstandyng
ye seyde a geyn to hym ye shulde geue as moche. And he seyde
to me ye named ye places wher. And yerfor he avyfed me to

In those days few persons died without bequeathing something to the Church, to be distributed at the pleasure of their Executors. This trust seems to have been reposed in J. Paston by several, though it appears he was slow in disposing of the money, as his father had been dead now above fifteen years, and a part of his good so bequeathed remained still in his hands; as appears by this letter.

labo^r

L E T T E R C I.

Amicabili magistro nostro Johanni Paston Armigero.

FULL reverend and worshipful, after all due reverence and recommendation, your poor Priest beseecheth humbly it please your good Mastership to understand by this simple bill, that on the Friday next after the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul last past, I was at your place at Caister to have told you what answer I had of Sir Thomas Howes, parson of Blofield, and in as much as ye were not at home, I told it to my mistress your wife, and God thank her of her gentleness, she made me great cheer; and moreover advised me to send you a bill thereof to London. This was his answer, when I had talked to him as I could, in like wise as ye adverted me to do; he answered again in these words, "Near is my Kirtle but nearer is my smock;" and this was his meaning, that ye should be more near us, and tender to us than he, and that ye should rather owe us good will than he, and that we should labour rather to your mastership than to him; And also that Good that he had to dispose he had beset it, and of parcell, he told me, he had delivered the Abbot of ¹ Langley fourscore pounds, whereof as he said to me, ye grudged and were in manner displeased, notwithstanding ye said again to him, ye should do as much; And he said to me ye named the places where; and therefore he advised me to labour effectually to

¹ The Abbey of Langley in Norfolk was founded by Sir Robert de Claving, in 1198, 9. R. I. And about the time here mentioned Nicholas ——— was Abbot.

your

labo^r effectually to y^r good maystirship for ye mych helpe no wele for he seyde ye had moche good of ye dede to dispose what of yo^r. fader god blisse yat fowle what of Berney and what now of his good mayst^r Fastolfe. And as for Sir John Fastolfe on hoose fowle jhu have m^rcy he seyde to me ye had of his good fowr fowr and fowr mor yan he in yese same termes w^t owte ony fume. And after all oder talkyngs he tolde me he shulde be w^t yow at lundon hastily and yat he wolde sey good worde to yow to releue our poor place. Sir I beseeche bethe not displeased for truly and j woste to haue yo^r heuy mayst^rship y^rfor I had leu^r it had bene on yoght. And is this yat whan Sir Thom['] Howes and ye be faunne at lundon We myght be so in yo^r good g[']ce yat o^r place myght be broder to langede for yat shulde glade us mor yan ye comission yat ye byfshop of ² Norwich sente us on Thrusday laste paste to gader the dymes for yat is a shrewde labo^r for us a grete coste and a shrewde juparde Ou^r mor yat hy and myghty celestial p[']nce p[']serue yow body and fowle and sende yow couforte of ye holy goost wele to p[']forme all yo^r hertis desir in all yo^r materes to his plesaunce and yo^r wurship and solace to alle yo^r welle wyllers. Wretyn at Bromholm on ye Saturday next after ye feste of ye Conu[']sion of Seynt Pogle laste paste.

ffrom yo^r preste and bedeman

³ John P[']our of Bromholm.

11 3 by 7.

Paper Mark,

A Ring.

Pl. XXI, N^o 4.

² Walter Hart became Bishop of Norwich in 1446, and died in 1472.

³ This Priory was founded by William de Glanville, in the reign of Henry I. and in the year 1113. John Titteshale was at this time Prior. Autograph Pl. xx. N^o 33.

your good mastership, for ye might help us well; for he said ye had much Good of the dead to dispose, what of your father, God blefs that soul, what of Berney, and what now of his good master Fastolf. And as for Sir John Fastolf, on whose soul Jesu have mercy! he said to me, ye had of his good four, four, and four more than he, in these same terms without any sum.

And after all other talkings he told me he should be with you at London hastily, and that he would say good word to you to relieve our poor place; Sir I beseech (*you*) be not displeased, for truly and (*if*) I wist to have your heavy mastership therefore, I had lever (*rather*) it had been unthought. And is this, that when Sir Thomas Howes and ye be soon at London we might be so in your good grace, that our place might be brother to Langley, for that should glad us more than the commission that the Bishop of ² Norwich sent us on Thursday last past to gather the Dymes (*Tents*) for that is a shrewd labour for us, a great cost and a shrewd jeopardy.

Evermore that high and mighty celestial Prince preserve you body and soul, and send you comfort of the Holy Ghost well to perform all your heart's desire in all your matters to his pleasure (*pleasure*) and your worship, and solace to all your well-willers. Written at Bromholm on the Saturday next after the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul last past.

From your Priest and Beadsman,

JOHN, Prior of BROMHOLM.

Bromholm,

Saturday 31. January,

1469. 39 H. VI.

LET-

L E T T E R C I I I.

*To my Ryght worchippfull
hosbond Iohn Paston be this
delyv'yd ī hast*

RIGHT worchippfull hosbond I recōmand me to yow p'yīg yow to wete that I have reccyved yo^r lett^r this day y^t ye sent me be Yelvertonys man As for yo^r ¹ signette J fond itt uppon yo^r bord the same day y^t ye went hens and j fend it yow be Richard Heberd bryng^r herof As for yo^r eronds y^t ye wrete to me fore Ric' Charlēs is owte abough yo^r eronds abowte gr'sh'm and for his awyn maters also and I suppose he komyth not hom tyll it be tesday or Weddenesday next komyng and allsone as he komyth hom he shall go abowte yo^r eronds y^t ye wrete to me fore I sent yow a letter wreten on tesday last past whiche as I suppose Roger Ormesby delyv'yd yow I toke it to Alson Pertryche She rod w^t Clyppysbys wyff to london I p'y yow if ye

¹ In former times a person's Signet or Seal was of the utmost consequence, and we find by this Letter that J. Paston had made immediate enquiries after his, as soon as he missed it.

I cannot in this place forbear mentioning the promiscuous and unauthorised use of arms, which, to the disgrace of the Laws of Honour, now so generally prevails, since it has been supposed that the College of Arms is not empowered to compel payment by attaching the Body or Goods of the offender, for any Fine set by the Court of Honour upon those Persons who have assumed Arms, and bear them without a proper Grant, or descent from the original Grantee.

When County Visitations were permitted, and the King of the Province of Arms and Heralds went their Progresses, Distinctions of family Descents, and family Arms were recorded and kept up, and the Heirs of Gentlemen's Families for a small fee were enabled to join themselves to their parent stock, by attending with their vouchers at the time and place appointed, of which they were informed by a public Summons from the Sheriff of their respective Counties.

have

LETTER CII.

*To my right worshipful Husband John Paston be this delivered
in haste.*

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that I have received your letter this day that ye sent me by Yelverton's man. As for your Signet, I found it upon your board the same day that ye went hence, and I send it you by Richard Heberd, bringer hereof; as for your errands that ye wrote to me for, Richard Charles is out about your errands about Gresham, and for his own matters also, and I suppose he cometh not home till it be Tuesday or Wednesday next coming, and as soon as he cometh home he shall go about your errands that ye wrote to me for.

I sent you a letter written on Tuesday last past, which, as I suppose, Roger Ormesby delivered you, I took it to Alton Partridge, she rode with Clippesby's wife to London.

It may be said, that in a free Government like ours, every man ought to have a right to ornament his Carriage, his Plate, or the Wax on his Letters, with any Device most agreeable to himself without being accountable to any one.

This being allowed, what will follow?

That every one may assume a Name, or even a Title, or may decorate himself with the Insignia of any of the honourable Orders. But would not such an one be called a Fool or a Madman? He certainly would.

I have often thought that Government might fairly avail itself of the present prevailing taste for Arms-bearing, by compelling every person of what rank or degree soever to take out an annual Licence or Certificate, for which a stated sum according to his rank or degree should be paid for the liberty of bearing or displaying any Arms, Crest, or Device, on his Banners, Carriages, Plate, Seals, &c. &c.

This would be a Tax which could not affect the Poor, nor in reality any one who did not wish to put himself in the rank of a gentleman.

have an other Sone that ye woll lete it be named * Herry in remembrans of your brother Herry Also I p'y yow that ye woll fend me dats and fynamū as haftyly as ye may I have speke w^t Iohn Damme of that ye bad me fey to hem to fey to thom's note and he fey he was well payd y^t ye feyd and thowgh y'in as ye dede. Ner'les I bad hym y^t he shuld fey to the feyd thom's y'in as it wer of hymself w^t owte yo^r avys or any others and he feyd he shuld so and that it shuld be purveyd for this next weke at the fertheft The blyffed t'nyte have yow in his kep̄yng Wretyn att Norwyche in haft the Fryday next befor Candelmesse day

Be your ³ gron̄yng wyff

4 22. 10.

11 by 5 1/2.

Paper Mark,
A Catharine Wheel.
Pl. xxi. N^o 6.

* On the back of the original Letter in an ancient hand is written "It appere by this Lrē y^t Justice Paston had a Sonne named Herry who dyed yonge."

LET

I pray you if ye have another son that ye will let it be named
² Harry, in remembrance of your brother Harry; also I pray
 you that ye would send me Dates and Cinnamon as hastily as ye
 may. I have spoken with John Damme of that ye bad me say
 to him to say to Thomas Note, and he says he was well paid
 that ye said and thought therein as ye did; nerles (*nevertheless*) I
 bad him that he should say to the said Thomas therein as it were
 of himself without your advice or any others; and he said he
 should so, and that it should be purveyed for this next week at
 the furthest, the blessed Trinity have you in his keeping. Writ-
 ten at Norwich in haste the Friday next before Candlemas day,

By your ³ groaning wife

⁴ MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich.

Friday, 1st Februry,

1460. 39 H. VI.

³ The conclusion of this letter is particular, and shews that the writer was very near
 her time of lying-in, it was written I believe about 1460.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

3 G 2

LET.

LETTER CIII.

A L're to I. Paston ar. from his wife.

PLEASE it you to wytte that it is lete me witte by on y^t owith you good wyll that y^t is leid awayte up on you in yis cuntre yf ye come here at large to bryng you to y^e p^resence of fyyche a lord in the north as shal not be for yo^r ease but to iop^rdie of yo^r lyf or gret and importable losse of yo^r goods And he that hath take up on hym yis ent^rp^rise now was undr shireff to G. Sayntlowe he hath gret favour herto by the meanes of the sone of Will^m Baxter that lyth beryed in the grey freres and as it is reported the seid sone hath geve gret sylv^r to ye lords in the north to bryng y^e matier a bowte and now he and alle his olde felaweship put owt their fynnes and arn ryght flygge and mery hoppyng alle thyng is and shalbe as they wole haue it also it is tolde me that the fadr of the bastard in this cuntre seid that now shuld this shire be made sewir for hym and his heires hens forward and for the baxteris heyres also Wherby I conceyve they thynke that they have none enemy but you &c. Wherfor like it

This Letter has no direction, and lest it should be opened, the paper which fastens the Seal is, along the edge, marked with lines by a pen which communicate with the latter, by which means the receiver might easily have discovered any attempts to have opened it, as the lines would not then have exactly coincided again.

On the back of it, but in a later hand, is written "A lre to J. Paston, ar. from his wife." Seal. Pl. xxiii. N^o 7. where the marks &c. are drawn.

I should think that this Letter was written just before the important crisis that finished Henry's reign, and placed Edward on the throne; if so, it was written on the 1st of March 1460-1, at a time when the Friends of Henry might be elated at the approach of the Queen with her army, which had been lately victorious at St. Alban's, not foreseeing

L E T T E R CIII.

A Letter to John Paston, Esquire, from his Wife.

PLEASE it you to weet that it is let me weet by one that oweth you good will, that there is laid await upon you in this Country, if ye come here at large, to bring you to the presence of such a Lord in the North as shall not be for your ease, but to jeopardy of your life, or great and importable loss of your goods; and he that hath taken upon him this enterprize now, was Under Sheriff to Giles Saintlowe; he hath great favour hereto by the means of the Son of William Baxter that lieth buried in the Grey Friars; and as it is reported the said Son hath gave great Silver to the Lords in the North to bring the matter about, and now he and all his old fellowship put out their fins, and are right flygge (*ripe*) and merry, hoping all thing is and shall be as they will have it; also it is told me that the father of the bastard in this Country said that now should this Shire be made sure for him and his heirs, and for the Baxter's heirs also, whereby I conceive they think that they have none enemy but you, &c.

foreseeing that in a few days the Duke of York would become their Sovereign, Giles Saint Lee was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1458.

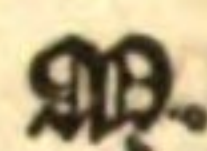
Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

N. B. To this Letter the initial Letter of her Christian name is only affixed.

Seal, a Fleur de Lys. The marks drawn by a pen to shew if it had been opened, are here expressed. See Pl. xxiii. N^o 7. The square lines represent the paper folded over the Letter on which the Seal is impressed; the angular ones shew the connecting lines from that paper to the paper on which the Letter is written.

it you to be ye more war of yo^r gydyng for yo^r p^rsones faufgard
and also that ye be not to hasty to Come in to yis cuntre til ye
here ye world more sewer I trowe the berar of this shall telle
more by mowthe as he shall be enfourmed of the rewell in this
cuntre God haue you in his kepyng Wretyn in hast the secund
Sunday of Lent by candel light at euyn.

By yours, &c.



12 by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

A Flower.

Pl. xxi. No 3.

LETTER CII.

*To my Mastr. Paston
the elder be thys lettr.
delyv'yd in hast.*

RYGH T w^{ch}yful Sr. I recommend me to zo^r. good
mast^rchyp the cause qwy I wryth I let zo^r have knowlech
of y^r mene that be in Cotton Halle how they be strangely dyf-
posyd a gey's zow for as I her say they make revell y^e they
melt led And brek down zo^r bregg and make yat no ma' go in
to place but on a ledd^r. and make them as strong as they kan a
geyns zow be the Supportac'on of Jeney and Debe'h'm and hys
Sone for they seye y^r that Jeney hath sold the lyflod on to De-
bynh'm

Wherefore like it you to be the more wary of your guiding for your person's safe-guard, and also that ye be not too hasty to come into this Country till ye hear the world (*is*) more sure. I trow the bearer of this shall tell more by mouth, as he shall be informed of the rule in this Country. God have you in his keeping. Written in haste, the second Sunday of Lent, by candle light at even.

By yours, &c.

MARGARET PASTON.

1st of March,

1460-1. 39 H. VI.

L E T T E R CIV.

To my Master Paston the elder, be this Letter delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to your good mastership the cause why I write, I let you have knowledge of the men that be in Cotton-Hall, (*in Suffolk,*) how they be strangely disposed against you, for as I hear say, they make revel there, they melt lead, and break down your bridge, and make that no man may go into (*the*) place but on a ladder, and make them as strong as they can against you, by the supposition of Jenney, and Debenham and his Son, for they say there that Jenney hath sold the livelihood unto Debenham, and that
his

bynh'm and y^r hys Sone the knyth shall dwelle ther and ther
 forr they have warnyd a Coort ageyns Munday and now y^{ey} ar
 a vyfed to kepyt on Sat'day be forr Mu'day Qwat they mene
 y'by I wot nev^r. but as for the felechyp in the place y^r ys ther
 now and have be her al y'ys wyke ther ys no ma' of Substans
 as we her And ther have be but vij or viij al thys wyke but y^r
 wyll be a gret felechyp thys nyth or to mor'we up on Sat'day
 for than they wyl kepe ye Cort And as for Edward Dale he dar
 not a byde wyl at hem they thret hym so be Cause he wyl fend
 them no vytaly And as for me self Edward Dale dar not let me
 wyll be ther for takyng in suspecyon And jas for the Tenaunts
 they be wel dysposyd except j or ij so that ze wyl support them
 in hast for they may nowt kepe of ther katel of the Ground
 long and specyally they desyr to have zo^r. owne p'fens and they
 wold be of gret Cownfort No mor I wryth to zo^r. but the
 holy

On the back of this Letter, but in a later hand is the following Memorandum,
 "Robtus Debenham ar' hūit exit. Gilbt'm Debenham mil. fil. suū, ipso pat. viven."

We have here a curious, and at that time a common instance of forceable entry, and
 keeping possession by force, from which, and many other similar accounts contained
 in these Letters, we see the propriety of buildings of that age being strengthened by
 Towers, Moats, and Draw-bridges, as defences against those forceable invaders of pri-
 vate property.

William Naunton the Writer of this Letter was of the very ancient and worshipful
 Family of Naunton, at this time situated at Alderton in Suffolk. His descendants after-
 wards removed to Letheringham in the same County, where they possessed a consider-
 able property, and resided in a venerable mansion, formerly the Abbey. The last male
 possessor of this Estate left it by will to his heir at law, the consequence of which has
 been that pretended heirs have been continually starting up, and disputing the right of
 the

this Son the Knight shall dwell there, and therefore they have warned a Court against Monday, and now they have advised to keep it on Saturday before Monday ; what they mean thereby I wot never ; but as for the fellowship in the place that is there now, and have been there all this week, there is no man of substance as we hear, and there have been but seven or eight all this week, but there will be a great fellowship this night or to-morrow upon Saturday, for then they will keep the Court ; and as for Edward Dale he dare not abide well at home, they threaten him so, because he will send them no vytyly (*viſtuals*), and as for myself Edward Dale dare not let me well be there for taking in ſuſpicion. And as for the Tenants, they be well diſpoſed, except one or two, ſo that ye will ſupport them in haſte, for they may not keep of their Cattle off the ground longer, and ſpecially they deſire to have your own preſence, and they would be of great comfort.

the perſon in poſſeſſion to the detriment of the Eſtate, and to the utter deſtruction of the Church and Chancel, now become a ruinous maſs from neglect, and in which were many curious, expenſive, and valuable Monuments, of this, the Wingfields and other allied Families ; the windows were alſo adorned with exceedingly elegant Paintings on the Glaſs, of Scripture Hiſtory, Effigies, and armorial Bearings, all of which have been within theſe very few years entirely demolished ! The Monuments however are moſt of them preſerved by the accurate pencil of Mr. Johnſon, of Woodbridge, at the expence of my Friend Craven Ord, Eſq. This Writer little thought, whiſt he was lamenting the proceedings at Cotton-Hall to J. Paſton, that in after-ages his deſcendants would be deſpoiling a litigated property in ſomewhat a ſimilar manner.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 36.

holy goft have zo^r. in kepyng wretyn on the Fryday aft^r. my
departyng.

Be yo^r f^rvaunt,

Wyllpa Danton.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,

Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. xxii. N^o 13.

LETTER CII.

To my ryght Worshipfull

Maister and Brother

John Paston this letter

be taken.

RYGH T worshipfull And Reverend Mayster and Brother
w^t alle my f^rvice I r^cōmaunde me on to yow please hit
oute yo^r grete Wyfedom to have yn yo^r descrete Remēbrauns ye
streite Ordr on which we ben p^rfessid And on which ze er bown-
den to kepe yo^r Residens and specially on y^s tyme of Cryftmas
amonggis yo^r Confrerys of this holy Ordre ye Temple of Syon
for ynlesse yan ze kepe dewly the poynts of yo^r holy Religion
owr Maister Thom's Babyngton maister and Sou'ayn of owr
Order by yassent of his Brythryn ben avyfed to Awarde azenste
yow ryght sharp and hasty proces to do calle yow to do yo^r
obcervauns and to obeye the poynts of yo^r Religion which wer
on to me grete hevynesse Wherefore I as he y^r hath most gretteft

Cause

No more I write to you, but the Holy Ghost have you in keeping. Written on the Friday after my departing.

By your Servant,

WILLIAM NAUNTON.

Friday,

... 14.
Date uncertain.

L E T T E R CV.

To my right worshipful Master and Brother John Paston, this Letter be taken.

RIGHT worshipful and reverent Master and Brother, with all my service I recommend me unto you, please it unto your great Wisdom to have in your discreet remembrance the strait order on which we be professed, and on which ye are bounden to keep your residence, and specially on this time of Christmase amongst your Confreres of this Holy Order, the Temple of Syon; for unless that ye keep duly the points of your holy Religion, our Master Thomas Babyngton, Master and Sovereign of our order, by the assent of his Brethren, be advised to award against you right sharp and hasty process to do call you to do your observance, and to obey the points of your religion, which were unto me great heaviness. Wherefore I, as he that

Cause and ys most bownden on to y^r grete gentylneffe and also whome nat'e and kynde most specially byfore ev'y of alle owr Breynn bynden me to owe and wilne yow goode wyll and trewe hert Confyderyng ye grete tyme of penawns y^t ze havyn ben yn fro sone upon Mighelmas hederto y^t ys to say yn Relevyng and Sustenawns of yo^r 'evyñ Crysten And also yn ye Charytable and meritory dede of Almyssdoyng y^t ys to say yn plenteous and liberall zeftis which ys more p^ryussleur yan goolde er Sylver which hath nat be at alle tymys to yo^r grete ease neyy^r hertis ples'uns but rather to yo^r grete desefe and yntollerable peyne And wher godds lawe and manys lawe acorden y^t hit shall nat be lawf' to non erthely man to be so lyberall and plenteous of y^t that god sendith hym y^t he sholde so despose hit so y^t he sholde nowgch have to lyve by And forasmych as I have p^rfite knowich of yo^r freell and nat'all desposiseon so set on to yeym that ben nedy and hunggery y^t of yo^r selfe ze have no myght neyy^r power to absteyne and rewle yo^rself but also long as God sendith and zevyth yow wher'of to dispose and help yo^r evyn Crysten ze most nedis despose hit forth a monggus yo^r evyn Cristen I conseile yow y^t yn also hasty and goodely tyme as ze kan to come on to yo^r holy Bryynn y^t ben of y^s devowt and clos Cōverfacon to yentent y^t ze myght ben advertysid and lernyd by theym ye goode Rewle and messur y^t ze owght and sholde

We have here a most curious Letter from a brother of the Order of the Temple of Syon to J. Palton, earnestly persuading him to a temporary residence amongst them, according to the Rules of the Order, and dissuading him from improper Alms-giving to the hurt of his private affairs.

The chusing of a place to do his penance in during Advent, reminds us of the Establishment for the secret House of the Earl of Northumberland, in the reign of Henry the

hath most greatest cause, and is most bounden unto your great gentleness, and also whom nature and kin most specially before every of all our Brethren binden me to owe and will you good will and true heart, considering the great time of penance that ye have been in from soon upon Michaelmas hitherto, that is to say in relieving and sustenance of your ¹ Even Cristen, and also in the charitable and meritory (*meritorious*) deed of Alms-doing, that is to say, in plenteous and liberal Gifts, which is more preciouser than gold or silver which hath not been at all times to your great ease, neither heart's pleasure (*pleasure*) but rather to your great disease and intolerable pain, and where God's Law and man's Law accord, that it shall not be lawful to none earthly man to be so liberal and plenteous of that that God sendeth him, that he should so dispose it so that he should nought have to live by; and for as much as I have perfect knowledge of your freell (*free will*) and natural disposition so set unto them that be needy and hungry, that of yourself ye have no might, neither power to abstain and rule yourself, but also long as God sendeth and giveth you, whereof to dispose and help your even Cristen, ye must needs dispose it forth amongst your even Cristen, I counsel you that in all so hasty and goodly time as ye can, to come unto your holy Brethren that be of this devout and close counsel, to the intent that ye might be advertised and learned by them the good

the Eighth, who at certain seasons of the year retired from his principal Mansion to some small Retreat, where he lived privately, and most probably performed offices of Devotion and Charity, as atonements for his sins of omission and commission.

See the Northumberland Book, p. 361, and notes at p. 442.

We may from this Letter suppose that persons of inferior rank at certain times likewise left their houses, and retired for the same purposes of praying and alms-doing, and that the season of Advent was the time set apart by J. Paston for those religious duties.

¹ Even Cristen. I wish for an explanation of this.

rule:

sholde have yn ye despociston and delyng of yo^r Almys And also fethnys ze haven chofen zow a place yn this feson of avent yn which ze have had a r[']fonable leysour and space to do yo^r penn's yn Which drawith fast to a ende which hath been a cōvenyent place as for ye ceson of ye yer And now hit drawith fast on to Cristmas on which tyme ev[']y trewe Crysten man sholde be mery jocūde and glad And fēthnys y[']is no place which by lyklyhod of r[']ason ze shulde fynde yn yo^r hert to be so gladde and yocūde yn as ze sholde be yn the place of yo^r p[']fession a mounngis yo^r holy Bryy'yn yn which place yn y[']. Ceson of ye yer hit ys a custumyd to be alle man^r of ² desport lyke as hit is nat unknowe to yo^r wisse descrescon Wherfore as my symple Reason ledith me yo^r grete descrescon sholde rewle yow y['] ze sholde app[']che nygh ye plase of yo^r holy Relegion yn also hasty tyme as ze code er myght of whos comyng alle yo^r saide Brey[']yn wolde be glade and fayn' And yn especiall I yo^r f[']unt & Broy' like as I am most syngguler bownden to yencresse of yo^r prosp[']ite and welfar which I shall ever desir w^t godds merfy which have yow undir his bleffid and fav[']orable proteccon Wrytten yn the Temple of Syon iij^d day of Decemb'r yn grete hast

By yo^r f[']vūt and broy[']

³ T.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8.

² The jovial manner of living at Christmas in these societies is here likewise pointed out, and makes us wish we could have taken a look at their Pastimes, Feasts, &c.

³ The writer of this singular Letter was from his own account a relation of J. Paston, and his Signature is like what in heraldry often represents a Fountain, it is therefore

FEET

rule and measure that ye ought and should have in the disposition and dealing of your Alms.

And also fithen (*since*) ye have chosen you a place in this season of Advent, in which ye have had a reasonable leifure and space to do your penance in, which draweth fast to an end, which hath been a convenient place as for the season of the year, and now it draweth fast unto Christmas, on which time every true Christian man should be merry, jocund, and glad; and fithen there is no place which by likelihood of reason ye should find in your heart to be so glad and jocund in, as ye should be in the place of your profession amongst your holy Brethren, in which place in this season of the year it is accustomed to be (*have*) all manner of ²disport like as it is not unknown to your wise discretion; wherefore as my simple reason leadeth me, your great discretion should rule you, that ye should approach nigh (*draw near to*) the place of your holy religion in all so hasty time as ye could or might, of whose coming all your said Brethren would be glad and fain (*pleased,*) and in especial I your Servant and Brother, like as I am most singular bounden to the increase of your prosperity and welfare, which I shall ever desire with God's mercy, which have you under his blessed and favourable protection. Written in the Temple of Syon, the 3d day of December, in great haste.

By your Servant and Brother,

³ T.

Temple of Syon,
3d December.

possible that his name might be Thomas Fountaine; as a family of that name resided at Sall, in the County of Norfolk, about the time that this Letter was written.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 35.

The Date of this Letter must remain uncertain.

LET-

LETTER CXX.

*To my Ryght Worshipfull
hobond Iohn Paston be y^{is}
delyverid in hast.*

RYGT H Wurchipfull hobond I recōmawnd me to yow
defyrīg hertyly to her of yor Welfar preying yow to wete
that itt was told me y^{is} weke that y' is Afayr plase to sell in seynt
laveransis parysch and stant ner the chirche and by y^e Water syde
y^e whiche place toppis hath to sell Pyte Alyster bowgth itt of
toppis and now for defawt of paymēt toppis hath enterid ayen
y'inne And shall selle itt in hast as it it is told me the seyde lyster
dwellyth y'inne at y^{is} tym but he shall owte for he is hald rygth
apore man I suppose if ye lyke to bye itt when ye com hom ye
shall mowe have itt of toppis Als godechepe or better than
Anoy^r shuld Als for tydyngs we have none gode in y^{is} Contr' I
p'y god send us gode jtt was told me that Rychard fowthwell
hath enterid in y^e maner of hale y^e whiche is y^e lady ' Boyfys
and kepyth itt w^t strength w^t seche Another felashep as hath be
att Brayston and waftyth and dispoilyth all y^t y^{is} And y^e lady
Boys as it is told me is to london to compleyn to y^e kyng and to
y^e lordys ther of jtt femyth it was not for nowgth y^t he held w^t
Charlys and his Felashep I prey yow y^t ye wol vowchesawf to
speke to Jamys Gloys to bye y^e Ungwentū Albū y^t I spake to
hym for And y^t ye woll remembr yor. fayr doweris gyrdyl I

We have in this Letter an instance of force used in entering into possession of Manors
and Estates, a very common method of proceeding in those violent and unsettled times.

L E T T E R CVI.

To my right worshipful Husband John Paston be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me to you desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet that it was told me this week that there is a fair place to sell in Saint Laurence's parish, and standeth near the church, and by the water side, the which place Topps hath to sell, Pyte a Lyfter (*a Dyer*) bought it of Topps, and now for default of payment Topps hath entered again therein, and shall sell it in haste as it is told me, the said Lyfter dwelleth therein at this time, but he shall out, for he is held right a poor man; I suppose if ye like to buy it, when ye come home ye shall now (*be able to*) have it of Topps as good cheap or better than another should.

As for tidings we have none good in this country, I pray God send us good; it was told me that Richard Southwell hath entered in the manor of (*Holm*) Hale, the which is the Lady^{*} Boys's, and keepeth it with strength with such another Fellowship as hath been at Brayston, and wasteth and despoileth all that there is; and the Lady Boys, as it is told me, is to London to complain to the King, and to the Lords thereof; it seemeth it was not for nought that he held with Charles and his Fellowship.

I pray you that ye will vouchsafe to speak to James Gloys to buy the Unguentum Album that I spake to him for; and that ye will remember your fair Daughter's Girdle.

^{*} Sibilla, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Ylley, and widow of Sir Roger Boys, Knight; she was alive after 1450.

hope ye shull be at hom so sone that I woll do wryte nomor
tydyngs to yow The blyssid t'nyte have yow in his kepig And
send yow gode spede in all y^e ye woll spede well inne Wretyn
at Norwyche on y^e Ascencon day

Yours

• M. P.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

² Autograph. Pl. II. N^o 25.

LETTER CXXX.

To Iohn Paston esquier.

SYR I recūmawnd me to zow please yt zow to wette yat my
modyr hathe caufyd me to putte Gr'gory owte of my f'vyse
as god help I wrythe to zow the very Cause why yt happyd
h̄y to have A Knavys losse ī pleyn termes to fwhyve A quene
and so dyd ī y^e Konyneclosse yt fortunyd h̄y to be A spyed be ij
plowemē of my modyrs whyche werne as fayne as he of yat
mater and desyerd h̄y to have p'te and as Kompany Requeryd
seyd not nay jn so myche yat y^e plowemē had her alle A nythe
ī ther Stabyll and Gr'gory was clere delyv'd of her And as he
Swherys had not A do w^t her w'in my modyrs place not w^t
standdyng my modyr thynkks yat he was grownd of yat mate^r
wherfor ther is no r'medy but he moſte a voyde And ī so myche
yat at ye laſte tyme yat ze wer her desyerd h̄y of me yf yat he
ſchuld dep'te from me I ſend zow y^e very cawſe of hys dep'tyng
as my modyr ſethe but I ā ī ſ'teyn ye cōtrary is true yt is nomor

I hope ye shall be at home so soon that I will write no more tidings to you. The blessed Trinity have you in his keeping, and send you good speed in all that ye will speed well in. Written at Norwich on the Ascension day.

Yours

• MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, May

H. VI. Date uncertain.

L E T T E R CVII.

To John Paston, Esq.

SIR, I recommend me to you, please it you to weet that my Mother hath caused me to put Gregory out of my service, as God help I write to you the very cause why ; it happened him to have a Knave's lust, in plain terms to lie with a Quean, and so did in the Coning Close ; it fortun'd him to be espied by two plowmen of my mother's, which were as fain (*desirous*) as he of that matter, and desired him to have part, and as company required, said not nay, infomuch that the plowmen had her all night in their stable, and Gregory was clean delivered of her, and as he swears had not ado with her within my mother's place ; notwithstanding my mother thinks that he was (*the*) ground of that matter, wherefore there is no remedy but he must avoid ; and infomuch that at the last time that ye were here, (*ye*) desired him of me, if that he should depart from me, I send you the very cause of his departing, as my mother saith, but I am in certain the contrary is true ; it is no more but that he cannot

but yat he cā not plese alle p^rys but yat lantylmā is hys woords
 lord he hathe seyde yat he woold lyfte them whom yat h^y plese and
 as yt scheweyt welle he lyftyd on xiiij myle ī a mornynge and nowe
 he hathe ben caw far of hys lyfte I wot not how far but yf yat
 ze be hys bett^r. mast^r but and we A mong us geue not h^y A lyfte
 I pray god yat we nev^r thryve and yat is hys itente I trowe to
 bryng us to Wherfor I r^quer zow yf yat yt plese zow to haue
 h^y yat zewylle be y^e bett^r mast^r to h^y for my sake for I ā he yat
 js as fory to dep^rte from h^y as any mā on lyve from hys f^rvāt
 and be my trowthe as farforthe as I knowe he is as true as any
 on lyve I troste my fortⁿe schale be bett^r yā ev^r to leve thus her
 but yf I wer hens wards I ensuer zow I wold not schange for nō
 yat I knowe he is p^rfytabylle on dyu's thynngs as ze knowe welle
 ther has ben a gr^r br^rke be twyx calle and me as I schal enforme
 zow at my comyng wyche schalle be on Wedynsday next be y^e
 grace of god who p^rfyve zow Wr^ty at Mawteby on Wyteson
 eve

Edmond Paston.

12 by 6.

Paper Mark,

A Bull's Head and Star.

Pl. ix. N^o 12.

We have here an account of a low amour; but the reason why I have given this letter, is to shew that E. Paston's Mother was governed by some one in the house; who took upon him to direct as he pleased, and for that reason a party seemed to be forming against him by her children. The person here meant was, I believe, Gloir, a priest, who resided in the house, and was a favourite with Agnes Paston.

LEC

please all parties ; but that Gentleman is his word's Lord, he hath said that he would lift them whom that him please, and as it shewed well he lifted one 14 miles in a morning, and now he hath been causer of his lift, I wot not how far, but if (*unless*) that ye be his better master ; but and we among us give not him a lift, I pray God that we never thrive, and that is his intent, I trow, to bring us to ; wherefore I require you, if that it please you to have him, that ye will be the better master to him for my sake, for I am he that is as sorry to depart from him, as any man alive from his servant, and by my truth, as farforth as I know, he is as true as any alive.

I trust my fortune shall be better than ever to live thus here ; but if I were hence wards I assure you I would not change for none that I know ; he is profitable on divers things as ye know well.

There has been a great break (*breech*) betwixt Calle and me, as I shall inform you at my coming, which shall be on Wednesday next by the grace of God who preserve you.

Written at Mawteby on Whitfun eve.

EDMOND PASTON.

Mawteby,
Whitfun Eve.

As a Mistress of a family she was certainly doing her duty in discouraging improper behaviour in her servants ; but then, as now, we find, it would be sometimes prudent to overlook improprieties in a domestic, who was in other respects a valuable one.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N^o 30.

L E T-

LETTER CXXX.

To my maystre Iohn Paston.

PLESITH yo^r maist^rschip to wit that I whas at Scole and spake w^t alblastre Iohn Sadeler and w^t other good yomē of the contre to undrestonde how they were gided for the vetelyng of the Barge of Yermouth And I undrestonde be thē that there hundred haue payed nev^rtheles it is but litell ther was gatherd in that hundred xvij^s and certein Corn and some other hundred vj m^{rc} and corne and so they have payed in all the hundreds and townys here a boutē that it to sey Est Flegge and West Flegge and up to Blofeld Tunsted and up to Stalom I undrestand be the comifcon that debenh^m hath it is more large thanne Maist^r Iohn is as ye schal undrestand wherof I send you A copy weche causeth me that I labor no ferther therin notwstandynge yo^r maist^rschip schal have knowleche what every hundred geve and Yermeth bothe Wretē at Wynterton the morwe afre I dep^ted from yo^r maist^rschip.

Yo^r poore bedman,

Ric. Calle.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

I have given this Letter as it ascertains the public manner by which the Ships were victualled, and shews us that it was done by a kind of voluntary subscription, in every town throughout the hundreds, of money and corn, though what proportion the corn bore to the money collected, does not appear from this account.

LET

L E T T E R CVIII.

To my Master, John Paston.

PLEASETH your Mastership to weet, that I was at Scole, and spake with Alblaſter and John Sadler, and with other good Yeomen of the Country, to underſtand how they were guided for the victualling of the Barge of Yarmouth; and I underſtand by them that their Hundred have paid, nevertheless it is but little, there was gathered in that Hundred eighteen Shillings and certain Corn; and (*in*) ſome other Hundred fix Marks (4*l*.) and corn; and ſo they have paid in all the Hundreds and Towns here about, that is to ſay, Eaſt Fleg and Weſt Fleg, and up to Blofield, Tunſtead, and up to Stalman, I underſtand by the commiſſion that Debenham hath, it is more large than Maſter John's, as ye ſhall underſtand, whereof I ſend you a Copy, which cauſeth me that I labour no farther therein, notwithstanding your maſterſhip ſhall have knowledge what every Hundred gives and Yarmouth both.

Written at Winterton, the morrow after I departed from your maſterſhip.

Your poor Beadſman,

RICHARD CALLE.

Winterton.

Richard Calle of Edinſhorpe, he afterwards married Margery, daughter of John and Margaret Paſton. Autograph. Pl. xviii. N^o 9.

L E T-

LETTER CXX.

*the copy of a letter sent to Iohn Paston
be the undir Shieve of Norff'.*

RYGH T Worchepfull S^r I recomaund me on to you &c.
And S^r as for the elecon of the Knyghts of the Shire here
in Norff in good feyth her hath ben moch to do nevyr the latyr
to lete yow have knowlech of the demenyng my master Berney
my master Grey and ye had grettyft voyse And I p'pose me as I
woll answer god to retorne the dieu elecon that is astir the suffi-
ciente yow and mastir Grey nevyr the latyr I have a master
Wretyn at Hederfet the thursday next befor Midsomer.

By

Willm Pryce.

11 ½ by 2.

It appears by this Copy of a Letter, (for so it is styled at the top of the paper) that the Candidates were not always present on the day of Election. The Under Sheriff here meant to do his duty, and to make his return after the sufficient, that is, according

LETTER CXX.

To my right worschipfull

Sr Rob't Rokysby.

RYGH T wurshipfull S^r I recomaunde me to you besech-
yng you of yo^r goode mast^rship that ye wol wechesafe
to speeke to Richard Kowven that he myght brynge me or sende
me

LETTER CIX.

*The Copy of a Letter sent to John Paston, by the Under
Sheriff of Norfolk.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, &c.
And Sir as for the Election of the Knights of the Shire
here in Norfolk, in good faith here hath been much to do,
nevertheless to let you have knowledge of the demeaning, my
Master Berney, my Master Grey and ye had greatest voice, and
I purpose me, as I will answer God, to return the due election,
that is after the sufficient you and Master Grey, nevertheless I
have a Master. Written at Hetherfet, the Thursday next before
Midsummer.

By

WILLIAM PRYCE.

Hetherfet,
Thursday, June.

ing to the greatest number of votes, though he at the same time hints, that it is not
entirely as he shall please, but as the High Sheriff shall direct.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 34.

LETTER CX.

To my right worshipful Sir Robert Rokesby.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, beseech-
ing you of your good mastership, that ye will vouchsafe
to speak to Richard Kowven, that he might bring me or send

me the money that is betwen hym and me in all the hafte that he maye for in goode Feythe I hadde neu^r more neede for to haue helpe of my goode as I haue at this tyme for godwot it ftonde right ftraunge w^t me For the Falfse chayler that kepeth me entretethe me worfe thanne it weere a Dogge For I am feterid worfe thanne eu^r J whas And manaced in the hands by the Daye and nyght For he is a feerde of me for brekyng a weye he makethe falfse tales of me throw the means of a falfse qwene that was tendyng to a Frenfheman that is prefon' to my lorde Roofe and for be caufe of that he bronde me eu'y day be lohn of Berney that is goone to the tother lords but I truſte to god oonye to qwite hys meede And S^r J thanke you mekel of that ye haue doone for me or feide And S^r J ſhal def'ue it a yeaſt you be the g'ce of god for I feythe J am be holden to you more thane to all men that eu^r I founde ſyn I cam in prefon No more to you At this tyme but god haue you in his kepyng be yo^r ſv'nt and bedman.

Perſe.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N^o 2.

It appears from what is ſaid in this Letter, that Perſe was committed as one who had been a partizan in the civil wars of the times, though of which party it does not appear; nor is it material, as my reaſon for giving the letter is to ſhew the treatment of priſoners. Autograph. Pl. XIX. N^o 24.

me the money that is between him and me in all the haste that he may, for in good faith I had never more need for to have help of my good, as I have at this time, for God wot it stands right strange with me, for the false Gaoler that keepeth me entreateth me worse than it were a Dog, for I am fettered worse than ever I was, and manacled on the hands both day and night, for he is afraid of me for breaking away; he maketh false tales of me, through the means of a false Quean that was tending to a Frenchman that is prisoner to my Lord Roos, and for because of that he bronde (*upbraideth*) me every day by John of Berney, that is gone to the other Lords, but I trust to God once to quit him his meed; and Sir I thank you mickle (*much*) of that ye have done for me or said, and Sir I shall deserve it against you, by the grace of God, for I feythe (*in faith*) I am beholden to you more than to all men that ever I found since I came in prison.

No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

By your Servant and Beadsman,

PERSE.

This Letter has
neither place
nor date mentioned.

Robert Lord Roos was one of the embassy to bring over King Henry the Sixth's Queen; and Thomas Lord Roos was beheaded on Tower-hill by the Lancaster party: which of them is here mentioned I know not.

I am likewise ignorant who Sir Robert Rokesby was, and whether the letter was written in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.

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may, for in good faith I had never more need for to have help
of my good, as I have at this time, for God wot it stands right
strange with me, for the false Gader that keepeth me entreated
me worse than it were a Dog, for I am fettered worse than ever I
was, and manacled on the hands both day and night, for he is
afraid of me for picking away; he maketh false tales of me,
through the means of a false Queen that was tending to a
Frenchman that is prisoner to my Lord Roos, and for because
of that he proude (wicked) me every day by John of Berry,
that is gone to the other I order, but I trust to God once to put
him his need; and Sir I thank you mickle (much) of that ye
have done for me or said, and Sir I shall deserve it against you,
by the grace of God, for I feythe (in faith) I am beholden to you
more than to all men that ever I found since I came in prison.
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written in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.

324

A
A CATALOGUE OF THE ORIGINAL LETTERS
C A T A L O G U E
OF THE
ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

A LIST OF THE
PLATES, and NUMBERS thereon.

EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS, &c.

A CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX to Volumes I. and III.

The PLATES of AUTOGRAPHS, N° XVII. XVIII. XIX. XX.

The PLATES of PAPER-MARKS, N° XXI. XXII.

The PLATE of Seals, &c. N° XXIII.

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS;

H E N R Y VI.

V O L. III.

Autographs.		Letters	
Pl.	Nº	From and to whom.	
XVII.		1	E A R L of Warwick's articles.
		2	Dalling's petition to parliament against sir William Paston.
		3	Katharine, duchess of Norfolk, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	20	4	Markaryte Paston, to John Paston.
II.	20	5	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
III.	28	6	James Gresham, to sir William Paston.
XVIII.	1	7	John Gyney, to sir William Paston.
II.	19	8	Agnes Paston, to Edmund Paston.
XVIII.	2	9	John Hauteyn, clerk, to the lord chancellor.
XVIII.	3	10	Sir Roger Chamberlayn, to Agnes Paston.
II.	19	11	Agnes Paston, to John Paston.
II.	15	12	Sir John Fastolf, to Stephen Scroope.
II.	19	13	Agnes Paston, to John Paston.
XVIII.	4	14	Sir Robert Williamson, to Agnes Paston.
II.	14	15	William Yelverton, justice, to sir John Fastolf.
II.	20	16	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
		17	The Commons, to the King.
XVIII.	5	18	Robert, prior of Bromholm, to John Paston.
II.	20	19	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
III.	28	20	James Gresham, to John Paston.
II.	15	21	Sir John Fastolf, to Sir Thomas Howys, clerk.
III.	28	22	James Gresham, to John Paston.
XVIII.	6	23	J. Damme, and J. Gresham, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	15	24	Sir John Fastolf, to sir Thomas Howys, clerk.
I.	8	25	John Vere, Earl of Oxford, to John Jermyn, sheriff.
I.	3	26	John duke of Norfolk, against Edmund, Duke of Somerset.
XIX.	16	27	Thomas Howys, clerk, to sir John Fastolf.
II.	25	28	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XX.	31	29	W. Wyrcestre, to John Paston.
II.	15	30	Sir John Fastolf, knight, to sir Thomas Howys, clerk.
III.	33	31	John Bokking, to W. Wayte.
I.	8	32	John Vere, Earl of Oxford, to John Paston.

With their AUTOGRAPHS, DATES, and PAPER-MARKS,

H E N R Y VI.

V O L. III.

Dates.	Paper Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. No
1 29 November, 1432, 11 H. 6.	These are on parchment.	
2 1434, 13 H. 6.		
3 2 October, after 1434, 13 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 13.
4 Trinity Sunday, after 1440, 18 H. 6.		
5 28 September, 1443, 22 H. 6.		
6 30 January, 1443, 22 H. 6.	A bell.	XXI. 1.
7 February, before 1444, 23 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2.
8 4 February, 1444, 23 H. 6.	A bull's or goat's head.	X. 8.
9 About 1445, 23 H. 6.		
10 15 September, after 1444, 23 H. 6.		
11 29 October, soon after 1444, 23 H. 6.		
12 30 October, between 1444, & 1459, 23 & 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2.
13 17 November, after 1444, 23 H. 6.		
14 After 1444, 23 H. 6.		
15 After 1444, 23 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4.
16 April 1448, 26 H. 6.		
17 February, 1449, 28 H. VI.	Some kind of flower, q?	XXI. 9.
18 March, 1449, 28 H. 6.		
19 April, about 1450, 28 H. 6.		
20 19 August, 1450, 28 H. 6.		
21 15 October, 1450, 29 H. 6.	A pair of shears.	XXI. 5.
22 About October, 1450, 29 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4.
23 11 November, 1450, 29 H. 6.		
24 4 December, 1450, 29 H. 6.	A pair of shears.	XXI. 5.
25 2 January, 1450, 29 H. 6.	Cross and mound.	XXI. 8.
26 1450 or 1453, 29 or 32 H. 6.		
27 9 May, 1451, 29 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 15.
28 1 July, 1451, 29 H. 6.		
29 7 July, about 1451, 29 H. 6.	A ring.	XXI. 4.
30 23 September, 1451, 30 H. 6.		
31 2 January, between 1450 and 1454, 29 & 34 H. 6.		
32 28 Dec. between 1450 and 1455, 29 and 34 H. 6.		

Autographs.		Letters	
Pl.	Nº	From and to whom.	
XVIII.	7	33	Sir John Wyngefeld, to John Paston, esquire.
XVIII.	10	34	Sir John Hevenyngham, knight, to Margaret Paston.
XVIII.	8	35	Alice Crane, to Margaret Paston.
XVIII.	9	36	R. Calle, to John Paston.
XVIII.	11	37	W. Wayte, to John Paston.
II.	19	38	Agnes Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	39	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	40	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
		41	 to John Paston.
		42	 to John Paston, (duke of York, to the king.)
II.	19	43	Agnes Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	44	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	19	45	Augnes Paston, to John Paston.
XVIII.	12	46	John Clopton, to John Paston.
		47	Clopton's marriage articles.
I.	12	48	The lord Scales, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	19	49	Agnes Paston, to John Paston.
XIX.	14	50	Elizabeth Clere, to John Paston.
XIX.	15	51	R. Dollay, to John Paston.
XIX.	13	52	Edm. Grey, ld. of Hastynges, Waifford, & of Rithyn, to John Paston, esq.
		53	John Paston, to lord Grey, &c. (a copy.)
II.	21	54	William Paston, to John Paston.
II.	15	55	Sir John Fastolf, to John Paston.
XIX.	16	56	Thomas Howys, to John Paston.
II.	15	57	Sir John Fastolf, knight, to John Paston.
XIX.	17	58	The Abbot of St. Benett's, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	25	59	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XIX.	18	60	John Jenney, to John Paston, esquire.
IV. i. I.	7	10	61 The earls of March, Warwick, and Salisbury, to all mayors, sheriffs, &c.
XX.	23	62	John (Chadworth) bishop of Lincoln, to John Paston, esquire.
I.	3	63	John (Mowbray) duke of Norfolk, to the commons of Norfolk.
II.	20	64	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	24	65	W. Botoner, H.R. to John Paston.
		66	Sir John Fastolf's accounts.
		67	Sir John Fastolf's accounts.
I.	9	68	Thomas Bouchier, archbishop of Canterbury, to John Paston, esquire.
III.	32	69	Henry Windsor, to John Paston.
XIX.	19	70	William Tailboys, to John viscount Beaumont.
II.	25	71	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XIX.	20	72	Dame Alice Ogard, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	23	73	BotoHRner, to John Paston.
II.	24	74	Botoner, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	19	75	Augnes Paston, to John Paston.
XIX.	21	76	John Osbern, to John Paston.
		77	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XX.	31	78	W. Wyrcestre, to John Paston.
XIX.	16	79	Thomas Howys, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	25	80	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.

Dates.	Paper Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. N ^o
33 May or June, between 1450 and 1460, 28 & 38 H. 6.	A ring.	XXII. 17
34 7 May, between 1450 and 1460, 28 and 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
35 29 June, between 1450 and 1460, 28 and 38 H. 6.	A pair of sheers.	XI. 11
36 29 Dec. between 1450 and 1460, 29 and 39 H. 6.	A pair of sheers.	XXII. 18
37 6 Oct. between 1451 and 1456, 30 and 35 H. 6.	A pillar and cross.	XXI. 7
38 16 Nov. between 1444 and 1459, 23 and 38 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
39 5 November, 1452, 31 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
40 30 January, 1452, 31 H. 6.	A bull's head and star.	XXII. 13
41 21 February, 1452, 31 H. 6.		
42 Probably between 1452 and 1454, 30 and 33 H. 6.		
43 6 July, 1453, 31 H. 6.	A bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
44 6 July, 1453, 31 H. 6.		
45 6 March, 1453, 32 H. 6.		
46 12 April, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
47 About 1454, 32 H. 6.	A snake.	XXII. 11
48 17 May, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
49 29 June, 1454, 32 H. 6.	A bull's head and star.	XXII. 15
50 29 June, 1454, 32 H. 6.	A bull's head and star.	VIII. 12
51 29 June, or 28 December, 1454, 32 or 33 H. 6.		
52 11 July, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
53 15 July, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
54 6 September, 1454, 33 H. 6.	A bunch of grapes.	IX. 14
55 11 November, 1434, 33 H. 6.		
56 13 November, 1454, 33 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 13
57 7 February, 1454, 33 H. 6.		
58 17 March, 1454, 33 H. 6.		
59 March, 1454, 33 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
60 24 June, about 1455, 33 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
61 23 July, 1455, 33 H. 6.		
62 26 July, 1455, 33 H. 6.		
63 about 1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
64 25 November, 1455 or 1460, 34 or 39 H. 6.		
65 6 January, 1455, 34 H. 6.		
66 1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull's head and star, &c.	X. 3
67 1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull's head and star, &c.	X. 3
68 7 Sept. between 1455, and 1458, 34 and 37 H. 6.		
69 May or June, between 1455 & 1459, 33 & 38 H. 6.		
70 August, between 1455 and 1460, 33 and 39 H. 6.		
71 February, between 1455 and 1460, 34 and 39 H. 6.		
72 30 March, 1456, 34 H. 6.	Cap and Fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
73 31 March, 1456, 34 H. 6.		
74 1 May, 1456, 34 H. 6.		
75 8 March, 1457, 36 H. 6.	An anchor.	XXII. 12
76 August, between 1457 and 1460, 35 and 39 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
77 Before 1459, 37 H. 6.		
78 2 September, before 1459, 38 H. 6.	A bull's head and star.	XXII. 15
79 2 September, before 1459, 38 H. 6.		
80 January, before 1459, 38 H. 6.		

Autographs.		Letters	
Pl.	Nº	From and to whom.	
XX.	26	81	Elizabeth Ponynggs, to Agnes Paston.
XX.	28	82	Hugh a Fenne, to John Paston.
XX.	29	83	John Paston, (elder son) to John Paston, esquire, his father.
II.	15	84	Sir John Fastolf, to the duke of Norfolk.
XX.	25	85	John Brackle, to John Paston, esquire.
XX.	25	86	John Brackle, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	21	87	Willyam Paston, to John Paston.
XIX.	22	88	W. Wainfleet, bishop of Winton, to
I.	8	89	Oxenford, John Vere, earl of, to John Paston, esquire.
I.	1	90	The king (Henry VI.) to John Paston, esquire.
I.	12	91	Scales (Thomas lord) to John Paston, esquire.
XX.	27	92	Ric. Suthwell, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	25	93	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XX.	27	94	Ric. Suthwell, to John Paston.
XIX.	18	95	John Jenney, to John Paston, esquire.
XX.	25	96	John Brackle, to John Paston, esquire.
XX.	25	97	John Brackle, to John Paston, esquire.
		98	John Brackle's Whitsunday sermon.
XX.	32	99	Abbot of Langeley (Nicholas), to master John Stokes.
XX.	33	100	John (Titleshale) prior of Bromholm, to John Paston, esquire.
XX.	33	101	John (Titleshale) prior of Bromholm, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	25	102	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	25	103	M(argaret Paston) to John Paston.
XX.	36	104	Wyllyam Nanton, to John Paston.
XX.	35	105	T. with a device, to John Paston.
II.	25	106	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
XX.	30	107	Edmond Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
XVIII.	9	108	Ric. Calle, to John Paston.
XX.	34	109	William Pryce, to John Paston.
XIX.	24	110	. . . Pers, to sir Robert Rokesby.

Dates.		Paper-Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. N°
81	3 January, 1458, 37 H. 6.	A pair of scales within a circle.	XXII. 14
82	1 March, 1458, 37 H. 6.		
83	5 March, 1458, 37 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 13
84	2 April, about 1459, 37 H. 6.		
85	 1459, 37 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
86	 1459, 38 H. 6.	A Flower.	XXI. 3
87	12 November, 1459, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 15
88	November or December, 1459, 38 H. 6.	A Bull.	IX. 10
89	17 May, before 1460, 38 H. 6.		
90	18 September, before 1460, 39 H. 6.	A bunch of grapes.	IX. 14
91	16 October, before 1460, 39 H. 6.		
92	18 December, before 1460, 39 H. 6.		
93	17 August, 1460, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
94	6 October, about 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 13
95	. . . before 1460, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
96	 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
97	23 October, 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
98		Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII. 10
99	8 May, 1460, 38 H. 6.	A pillar and cross.	XXI. 7
100	14 October, 1460, 39 H. 6. or 1465, 5 E. 4.		
101	31 January, 1460, 39 H. 6.	A ring.	XXI. 4
102	1 February, 1460, 39 H. 6.	A catharine wheel.	XXI. 6
103	1 March, 1460, 39 H. 6.	A flower.	XXI. 3
104	 date uncertain.	Bull's head and star.	XXII. 13
105	3 December.		
106	May, H. 6.		
107		Bull's head and star.	IX. 12
108			
109	June.		
110		Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have their AUTOGRAPHS engraved.

Auto- graphs. Pl. No	Letters.	Autographs.
XVII.	1	{ A fac simile of the conclusion of the articles. H. Gloucestre, Cromwell, J. Ebor, P. Elien, W. Lincoln. J. Bathon. Canc. J. Roffen. Suffolk, H. Stafford, J. Hun- tyngton.
XVIII.	1 7 2 9 3 10 4 14 5 18 6 23 7 33 8 35 9 36, 108. 10 34 11 37 12 46	John Gyney. John Hauteyn, chapeleyn. Yo ^r Cofyn S ^r Roger Chamberleyn. S ^r Robard Willya ^m fon. Rob ^t . P. of B.—Robert, prior of Bromholm. J. D. and Gr.—John Damme and James Gresham. Wyngefild J.—Sir John Wingfield. Alicie Crane. R. Calle. Joh Heveny ⁿ gh ^a m, knyght. W. Wayte. Your John Clopton.
XIX.	13 52 14 50 15 51 16 27, 56, 79. 17 58 18 60, 95. 19 70 20 72 21 76 22 88 23 62 24 110	Edmond Grey, lord of Hastynges, Wainford, & of Ruthyn. Elifabeth Clere. R. Dollay. T. Howys. Be your good frend, the abbot of S. Benett's. John Jenney. Willia ^m Tailboys. D. A. Ogard.—Dame Alice Ogard. John Ofbern. W. Winton. J. Byfshopp of Lincoln. . Pers.
XX.	25 85, 86, 96, 97. 26 81 27 92, 94. 28 82 29 83 30 107 31 29, 78. 32 99 33 100, 101. 34 109 35 105 36 104	Vesterad vota promptissimus, Frater J. B. minorum minimus. Elizabeth Ponings. Ric. Suthwell. Yo ^r Hugh a Fenne. By your older sone, John Paston. Edmond Paston. Yo ^r . W. Wyrcestre. Youre Preeft, abbot of Langeley. Froom yo ^r . preste and bedeman, John p'our of Bromholm. Willia ^m Pryce. By yo ^r f'vu ⁿ t and brother, T. with a device. Wyllia ^m Nanton.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have their PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper-Marks. Pl. No	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
XXI. 1	6	A bell.
2	2	A fleur de lys, surmounted by a coronet.
3	86, 103.	A flower.
4	29, 101.	A ring.
5	21, 24.	A pair of sheers.
6	102	A Catharine wheel.
7	37, 99.	A pillar and cross.
8	25	A cross and mound.
9	17	Q? Some kind of flower.
XXII. 10	98	Wheels, &c. q?
11	47	A snake.
12	75	An anchor.
13	39, 56, 83, 94.	A bull's head and star.
14	81	A pair of scales within a circle.
15	27, 49, 78, 87.	A bull's head and star.
16	38, 44, 55, 63, 76	A bull.
17	33	A ring.
18	36	A pair of sheers.

H E N R Y VI.

C O N T E N T S of the P L A T E S.

Plate.	Autographs, &c. Royal.—Noble. —Commoners.	Total.	Paper-Marks.	Total.	Seals, &c.
XVII.	1 9				
XVIII.	12				
XIX.	4 8				
XX.	12 }				
	Editor 1 }		9		
XXI.			9		
XXII.					
XXIII.					9 1&Let. }
	1 13 33	47	18	18	10, &c.

H E N R Y VI.

Pl. XXIII.		Letters.
N ^o		
1	Agnes Palton. - - - Seal octangular, the impression imperfect, but it appears to be the head of a king, or royal personage, having something on the head resembling a coronet or crown.	13, 45, 75.
2	Henry VI. - - - The royal arms, France and England quarterly, surmounted by a royal coronet, and encircled with a collar of SS. the whole surrounded by a braid of fine straw. The four rays shew the marks of the fastening thread.	90
3	John Gyney. - - - An octangular Seal, having on it a merchant's mark.	7
4	William Botoner. - - - The impression of this seal on the paper is faint, but it appears to be St. John's head in a charger, the motto is illegible.	65
5	Nicholas Abbot of Langley. - - - The seal of the abbey of Langley, in Norfolk, it is on red wax, oval, but imperfect; it has a person sitting under a gothic tabernacle; the circumscription is too imperfect to be made out.	99
6	Edmond Grey, lord of Hastyngs, Waifford, & of Rithyn. - - - The impression on red wax is defaced, but it is surrounded by a neat braid of straw.	52
7	Margaret Paston. - - - A fleur de lys. The marks drawn by a pen, to prevent any person from opening it for fear of a discovery, are very particular. See Letter CIII. Note.	19, 71, 77. 80, 103.
8	Richard Calle. - - - An eagle's head erased, having an escroll issuing from its mouth. Motto illegible.	36, 108.
9	R. Dollay. - - - Arms, a cheveron between three roundles.	51

Pl. XXIII.

Letter.

Richard Calle, to John Paston.

N^o

10

The directed side of a Letter, folded and fastened by a tapering strip of paper, the narrow end of which is put into a hole cut through the Letter to the back or sealed side, where the same narrow ends of the strip are fastened under the seal by the wax or wafer.

11

The broad end of the strip of paper is then doubled over the end of the folded Letter, and on the back or sealed side fastened by the wax or wafer, and impressed by the seal, as here represented.

N. B. Many of the Letters have the strip of paper fastened by a string or thread.

The seals are in this plate represented on the fastening paper, and the ends of the string or thread are visible on many of them.

N. B. Those Letters whose numbers do not appear in the lists of the plates have their autographs, paper-marks and seals engraved on the plates at the end of the second volume of this work, to which the reader is referred both from the letters and the catalogue.

448 A CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX.

Arranging all the LETTERS, &c. written during the Reign of HENRY VI. which are contained in the I. and III. Volumes of this Work, nearly according to their Dates.

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
Vol. I.	Vol. III.		
	I.	29 November, 1432.	11
	II.	 1434.	13
	III.	2 October, after 1434.	
I.		. . . about 1440.	18
II.		1 November, 1440.	19
	IV.	. . . after 1440.	
	V.	28 September, 1443.	22
	VI.	3 January, 1443.	
	VII.	February, before 1443.	
III.		. . . before 1444.	23
IV.		. . . between 1440 and 1450.	
	VIII.	February, 1444.	
	IX.	. . . about 1445.	
	X.	15 September, after 1444.	
	XI.	29 October, after 1444.	
	XII.	30 October, between 1444 and 1454.	
V.		. . . between 1444 and 1455.	
VI.		. . . between 1444 and 1460.	
	XIII.	17 November, after 1444.	
	XIV.	. . . after 1444.	
	XV.	. . . after 1444.	
	XVI.	April, 1448.	26
VII.		18 October, 1449.	28
	XVII.	February, 1449.	
VIII.		12 March, 1449.	
	XVIII.	March, about 1449.	
	XIX.	April, about 1450.	
IX.		April, 1450.	
X.		5 May, 1450.	
XI.		6 May, 1450.	
XII.		27 May, 1450.	
XIII.		June and July, 1450.	
	XX.	19 August, 1450.	
	XXI.	15 October, 1450.	29
	XXII.	About October, 1450.	
	XXIII.	11 November, 1450.	
	XXIV.	4 December, 1450.	
	XXV.	2 January, 1450.	
	XXVI.	. . . 1450 or 1453.	
	XXVII.	9 May, 1451.	

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
Vol. I.	Vol. III.		
XIV.	XXVIII.	1 July, 1451.	30
	XXIX.	7 July, about 1451.	
	XXX.	23 September, 1451.	
		 1451.	
	XXXI.	 between 1450 and 1454.	
	XXXII.	28 December, between 1450 and 1455.	36
	XXXIII.	May or June, between 1450 and 1460.	
	XXXIV.	7 May, between 1450 and 1460.	
	XXXV.	29 June, between 1450 and 1460.	
	XXXVI.	29 December, between 1450 and 1460.	
XV.	XXXVII.	6 October, between 1451 and 1456.	31
	XXXVIII.	16 November, between 1444 and 1459.	
		21 April, 1452.	
	XXXIX.	5 November, 1452.	
	XL.	30 January, 1452.	
XVI.	XLI.	21 February, 1452.	32
		 1452 or 1453.	
	XLII.	 between 1452 and 1454.	
	XLIII.	6 July, 1453.	
	XLIV.	6 July, 1453.	
XVII.	XLV.	6 March, 1453.	33
	XLVI.	About April, 1454.	
	XLVII.		
	XLVIII.	17 May, 1454.	
		8 June, 1454.	
XVIII.	XLIX.	29 June, 1454.	33
	L.	29 June, 1454.	
	LI.	29 June, or 28 December, 1454.	
	LII.	11 July, 1454.	
	LIII.	15 July, 1454.	
	LIV.	6 September, 1454.	
	LV.	11 November, 1454.	
	LVI.	13 November, 1454.	
		10 January, 1454.	
	LVII.	7 February, 1454.	
XIX.	LVIII.	17 March, 1454.	33
	LIX.	March, 1454.	
		2 November, before 1455.	
	XX.	23 August, before 1460.	
	XXI.	19 August, 1454, or 1455.	
	XXII.	8 June.	
	XXIII.	18 October, before 1455.	
	XXIV.	25 May, 1453.	
	XXV.	June, 1455.	
	LX.	24 June, about 1455.	
XXVI.		20 July, 1455.	

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
Vol. II.	Vol. III.		
XXVII.	LXI.	23 July, 1455.	34
	LXII.	26 July, 1455.	
	LXIII.	About 1455.	
	LXIV.	28 October, 1455.	
XXVIII.	LXV.	25 November, 1455.	35
	LXVI.	6 January, 1455.	
	LXVII.	5 February, 1455.	
	LXVIII.	27 March, between 1454 and 1459.	
XXIX.	LXIX.	7 September, between 1454 and 1458.	36
	LXX.	May, or June, between 1455 and 1459.	
	LXXI.	24 July, between 1455 and 1460.	
	LXXII.	August, between 1455 and 1460.	
XXX.	LXXIII.	February, between 1455 and 1460.	37
	LXXIV.	30 March, 1456.	
	LXXV.	31 March, 1456.	
	LXXVI.	1 May, 1456.	
XXXI.	LXXVII.	15 May, 1456.	38
	LXXVIII.	7 June, 1456.	
	LXXIX.	10 August, 1456.	
	LXXX.	5 July, 1457.	
XXXII.	LXXXI.	28 January, 1457.	39
	LXXXII.	24 January, 1457.	
	LXXXIII.	1 February, 1459.	
	LXXXIV.	8 March, 1457.	
XXXIII.	LXXXV.	15 March, 1457.	40
	LXXXVI.	August, between 1457 and 1460.	
	LXXXVII.	1 June, 1458.	
	LXXXVIII.	13 May, before 1460.	
XXXIV.	LXXXIX.	. . . before 1459.	41
	LXXXX.	2 September, before 1459.	
	LXXXXI.	2 September, before 1459.	
	LXXXXII.	18 November, before 1459.	
XXXV.	LXXXXIII.	17 July, before 1459.	42
	LXXXXIV.	August, before 1459.	
	LXXXXV.	January, before 1459.	
	LXXXXVI.	3 January, 1458.	
XXXVI.	LXXXXVII.	1 March, 1458.	43
	LXXXXVIII.	5 March, 1458.	
	LXXXXIX.	2 April, about 1459.	
	LXXXXX.	29 April, 1459.	
XXXVII.	LXXXXXI.	. . . 1459.	44
	LXXXXXII.	. . . 1459.	
	LXXXXXIII.	12 November, 1459.	
	LXXXXXIV.	November, or December, 1459.	

Letters.		Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
Vol. I.	Vol. III.		
XLV.		7 December, 1459.	39
XLVI.		January, 1459.	
XLVII.		29 January, 1459.	
XLVIII.		13 June, between 1457 and 1460.	
	LXXXIX.	17 May, before 1460.	
	XC.	18 September, before 1460.	
	XCI.	16 October, before 1460.	
	XCII.	18 December, before 1460.	
XLIX.		24 March, before 1460.	
L.		8 March, before 1460.	
	XCIII.	17 August, 1460.	
	XCIV.	6 October, about 1460.	
	XCV.	. . . before 1460.	
LI.		12 October, 1460.	
	XCVI.	. . . 1460.	
	XCVII.	23 October, 1460.	
	XCVIII.		
	XCIX.	8 May, 1460.	
	C.	14 October, 1460.	
LII.		29 January, 1460.	
	CI.	31 January, 1460.	
	CII.	1 February, 1460.	
	CIII.	1 March, 1460.	
LIII.			
	CIV.		
	CV.	3 December.	
	CVI.	May.	
	CVII.		
	CVIII.		
	CIX.	June.	
	CX.	. . . H. VI. or E. IV.	

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

Vol. I.	Vol. III.	Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
XLV.		7 December, 1450.	
XLVI.		1 January, 1450.	
XLVII.		20 January, 1450.	
XLVIII.		13 June, between 1457 and 1460.	
	LXXXIX.	17 May, before 1460.	
		18 September, before 1460.	
	XCI.	16 October, before 1460.	
	XCI.	8 December, before 1460.	
		24 March, before 1460.	
XLIX.		2 March, before 1460.	
	XCI.	17 August, 1460.	
	XCI.	5 October, about 1460.	
	XCV.	12 October, before 1460.	
		1460.	
	XCV.	23 October, 1460.	
	XCV.	8 May, 1460.	
	C.	14 October, 1460.	
		20 January, 1460.	
	CI.	31 January, 1460.	
	CI.	1 February, 1460.	
	CI.	1 March, 1460.	
		December, 1460.	
	CIV.	May.	
	CV.		
	CVI.		
	CVII.		
	CVIII.		
	CIX.	June.	
	CX.	H. VI. or E. IV.	

39

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

Autographs

Henry VI 1422 — 1460.

and not oblige in Henry's symple conceit or opinion without his desert and without answer.

Who it is agreed
 J. Gloucester

Gomwell

N. Grey

J. Ghor

Lincoln J. Rathon cano y roffen

Suffolk E. L. Stafford

J. Guntynston

Henry M. ...

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Autographs.
Henry VI. 1422—1460

¹
John Gyney

²
John Gyney Chaplain

³
John Gyney of Roger
Chamberlain

⁴
John Gyney Chaplain

⁵
John Gyney of Roger

⁶
J. G. 1422

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Gyneyfeld

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Gyneyfeld

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Gyneyfeld

¹⁰
Gyneyfeld

¹¹
Gyneyfeld

¹²
Gyneyfeld

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Autographs.
Henry VI. 1422—1460.

13

Edmund Grey lord of Lisle
Baird of St. Andrew

12

Elizabeth Grey

15

R. Doleman

16

J. H. H. H. H.

17

Do you good friend
the abbot of S. Benet

18

John Tonnay

19

William Gailborof

20

J. D. a. o. y. a. d.

23

23
of Lincoln

21

John of Lisle

22

W. W. m. b. s.

24

John

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Autographs.

Henry VI.....1422—1460.

²⁵
 ut ad voca propriissimam
 ff. j. B. usque in finem

26

Elizabeth pomroye

27

) Ric^d Bitchloke

28

J^m Gush a
f^mms

29

a (the young) obediens
John Paston

30

Edmond p^rson

31

p^r. W. Wyndesore

32

p^rson p^rest
Wot of Langley

33

ffrom p^rest (Edomay)
John p^rson of Wyndesore

35

By p^rest and Gray

34

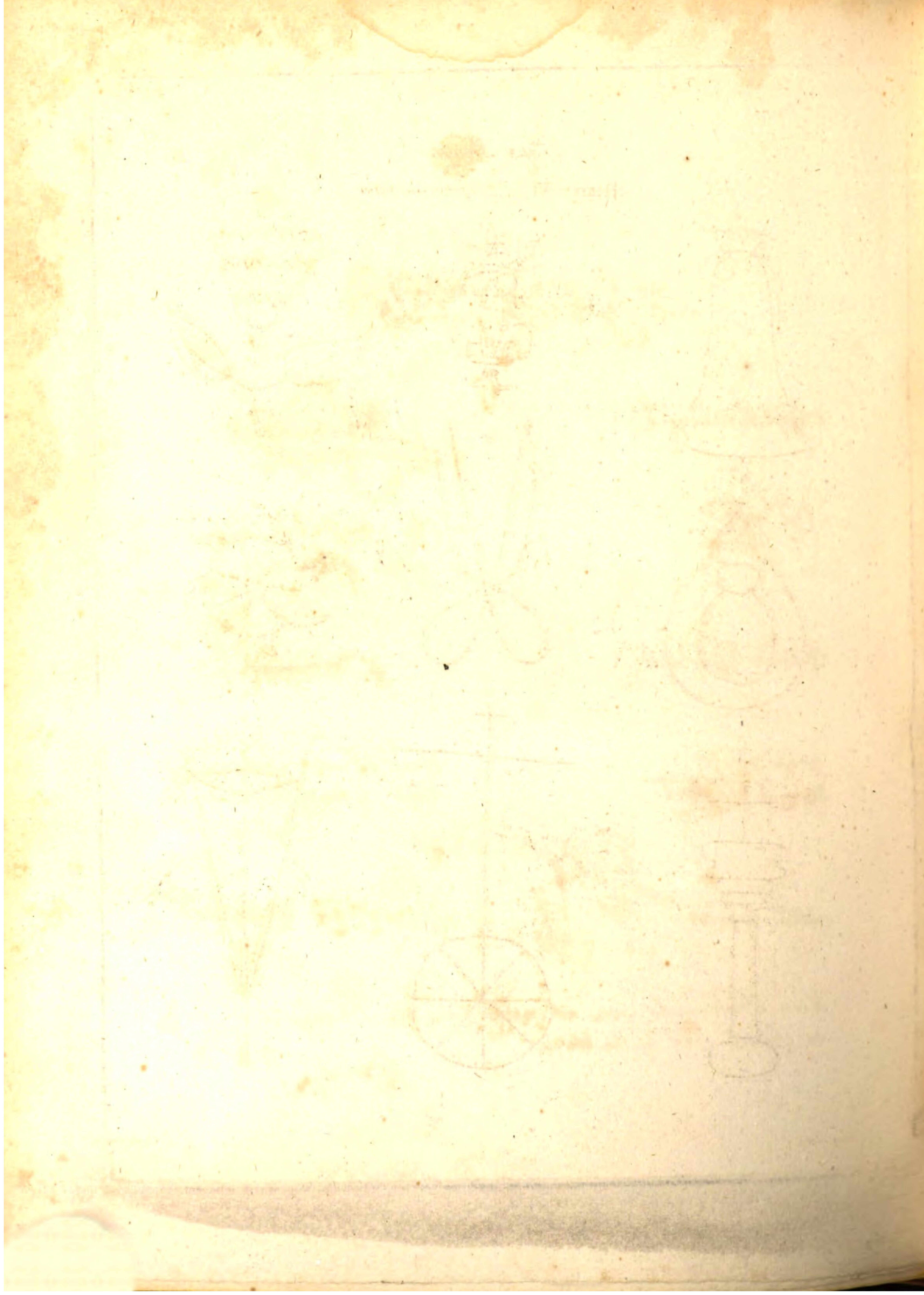
Willm p^rest

36

Langleya Manton

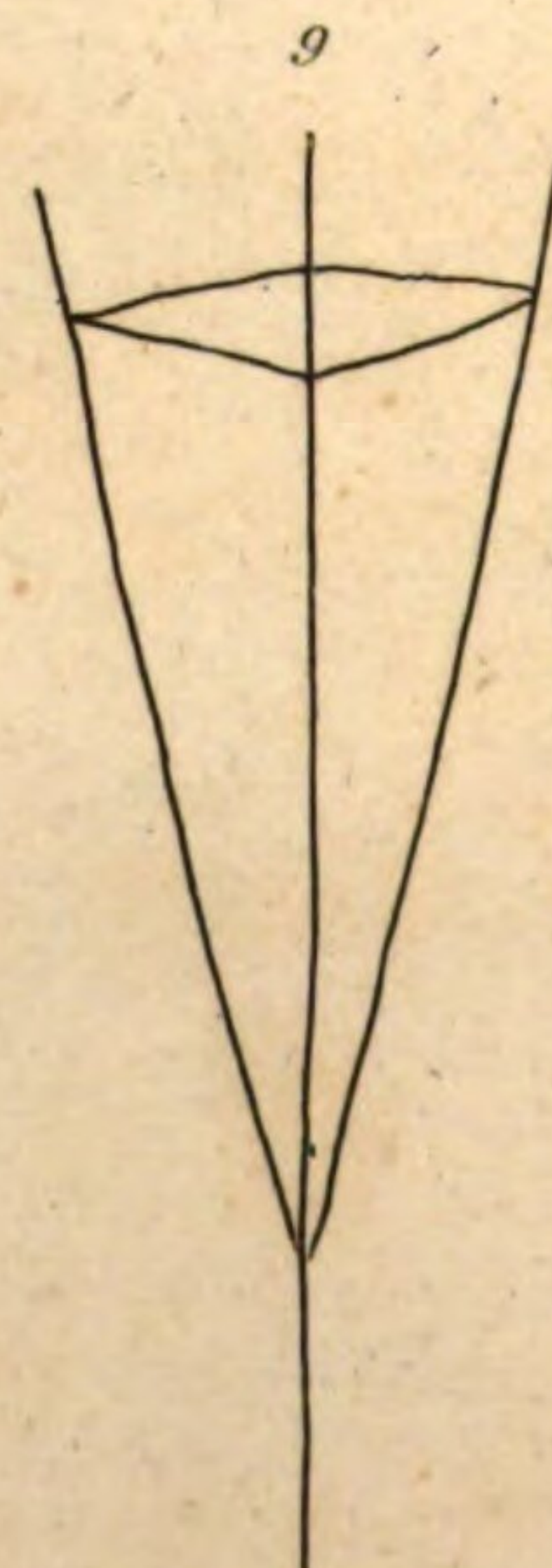
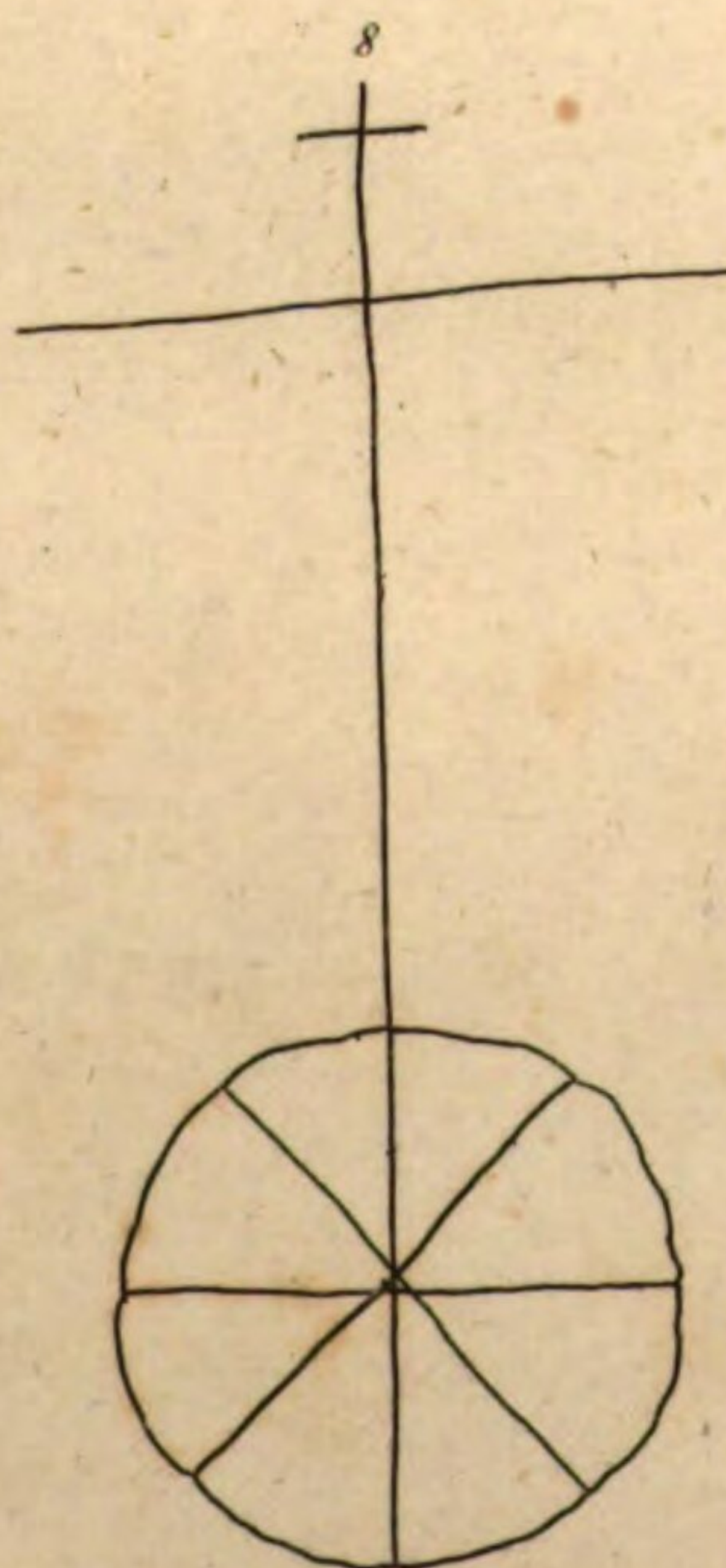
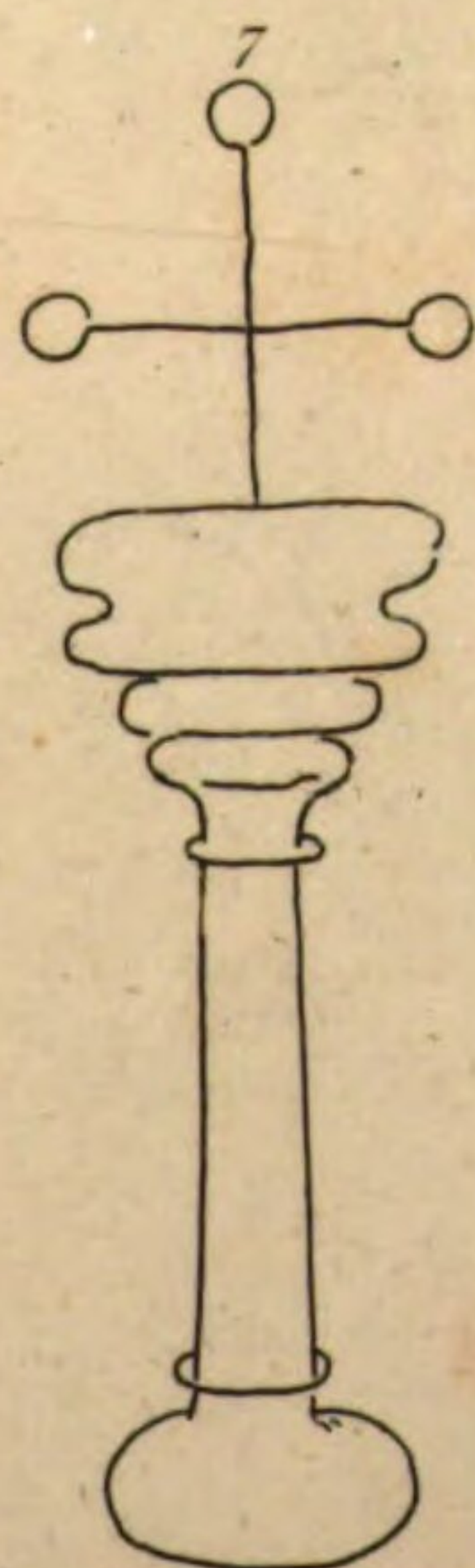
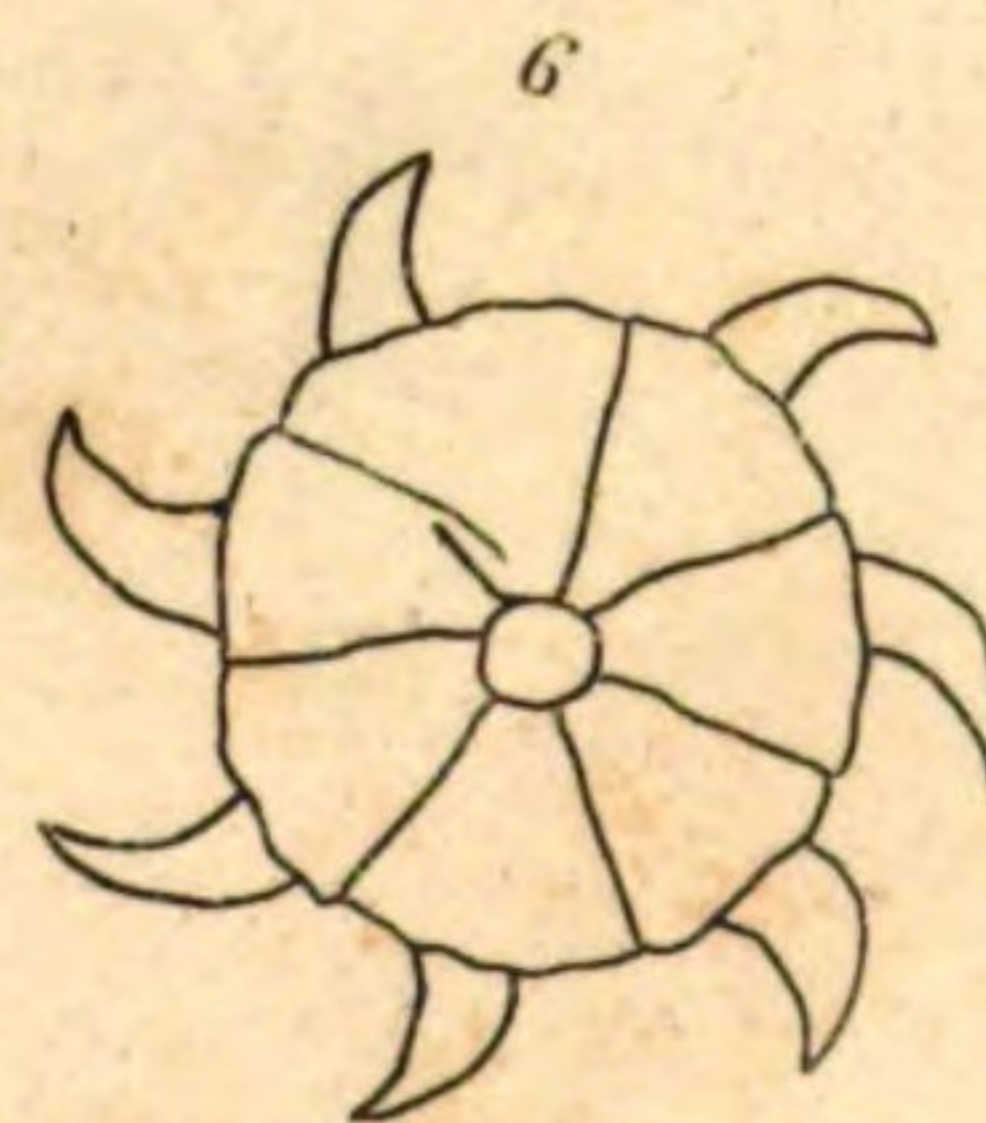
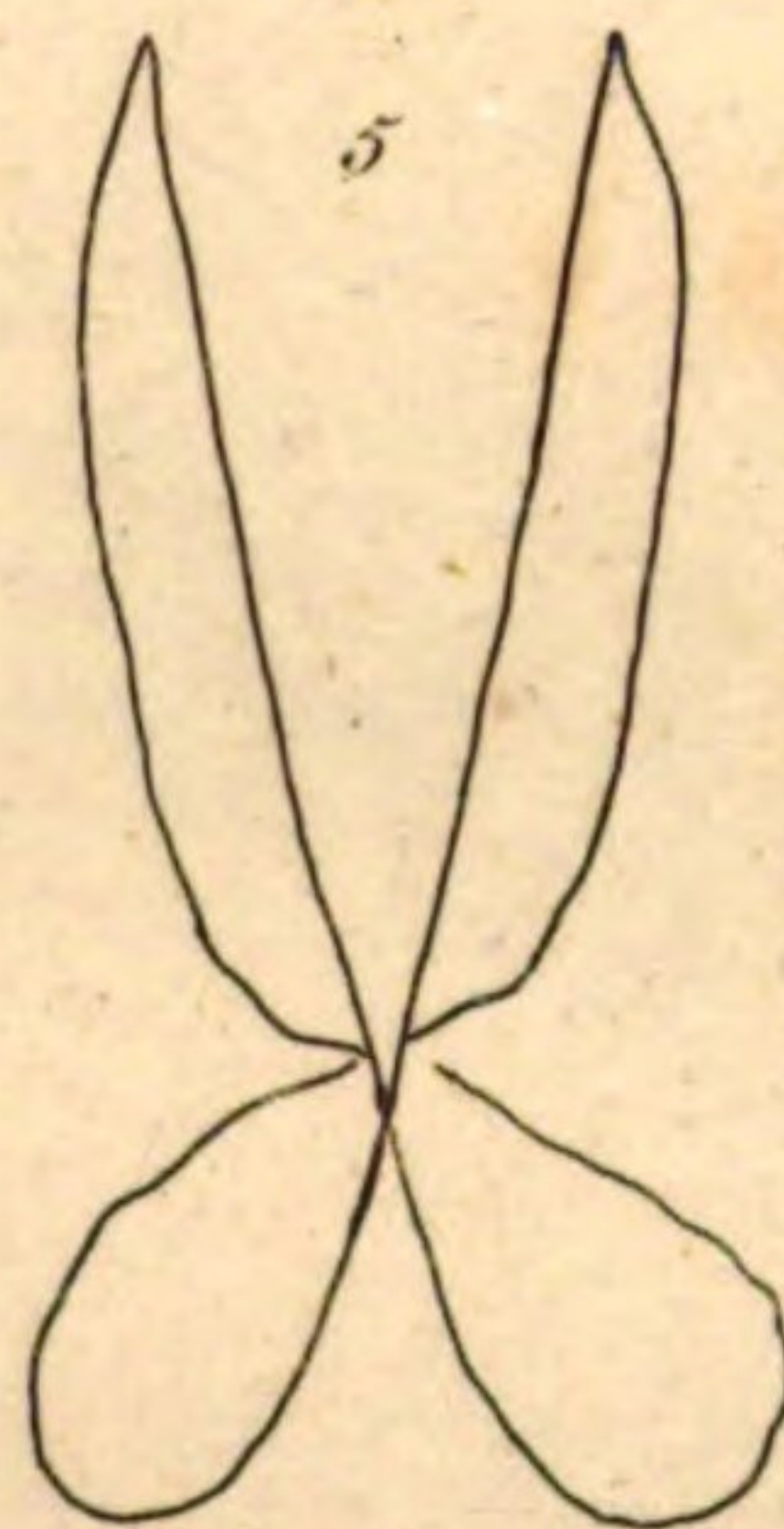
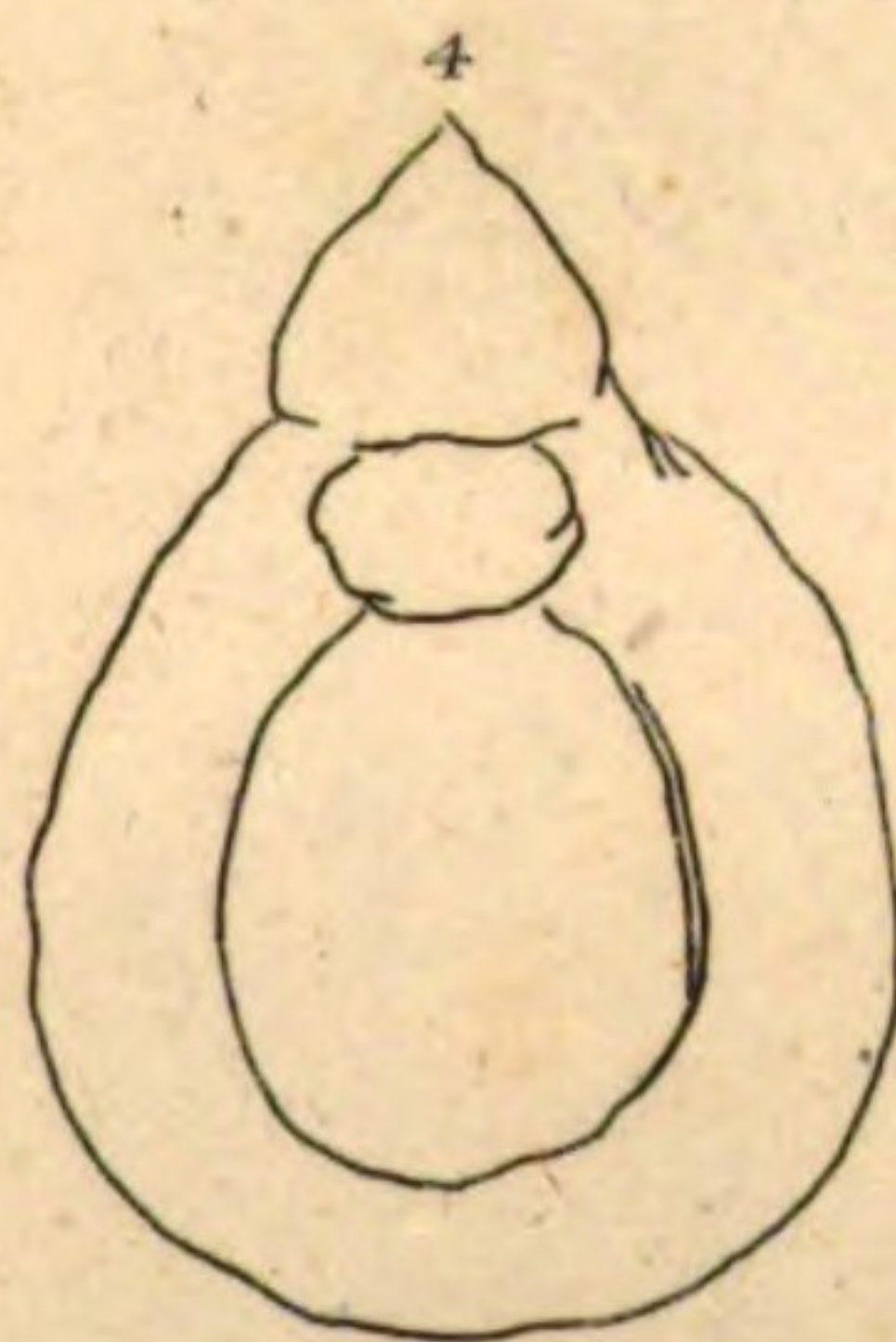
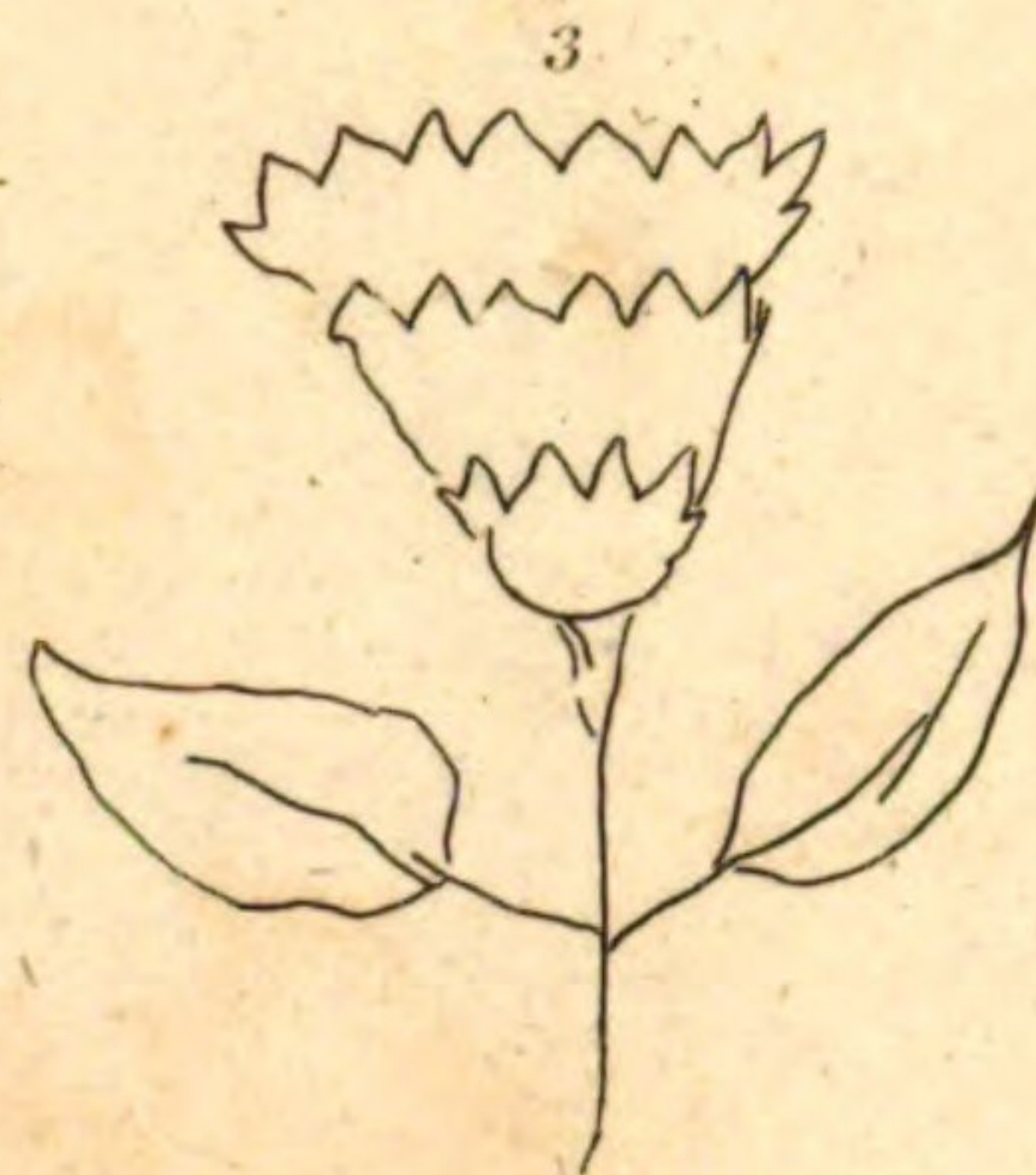
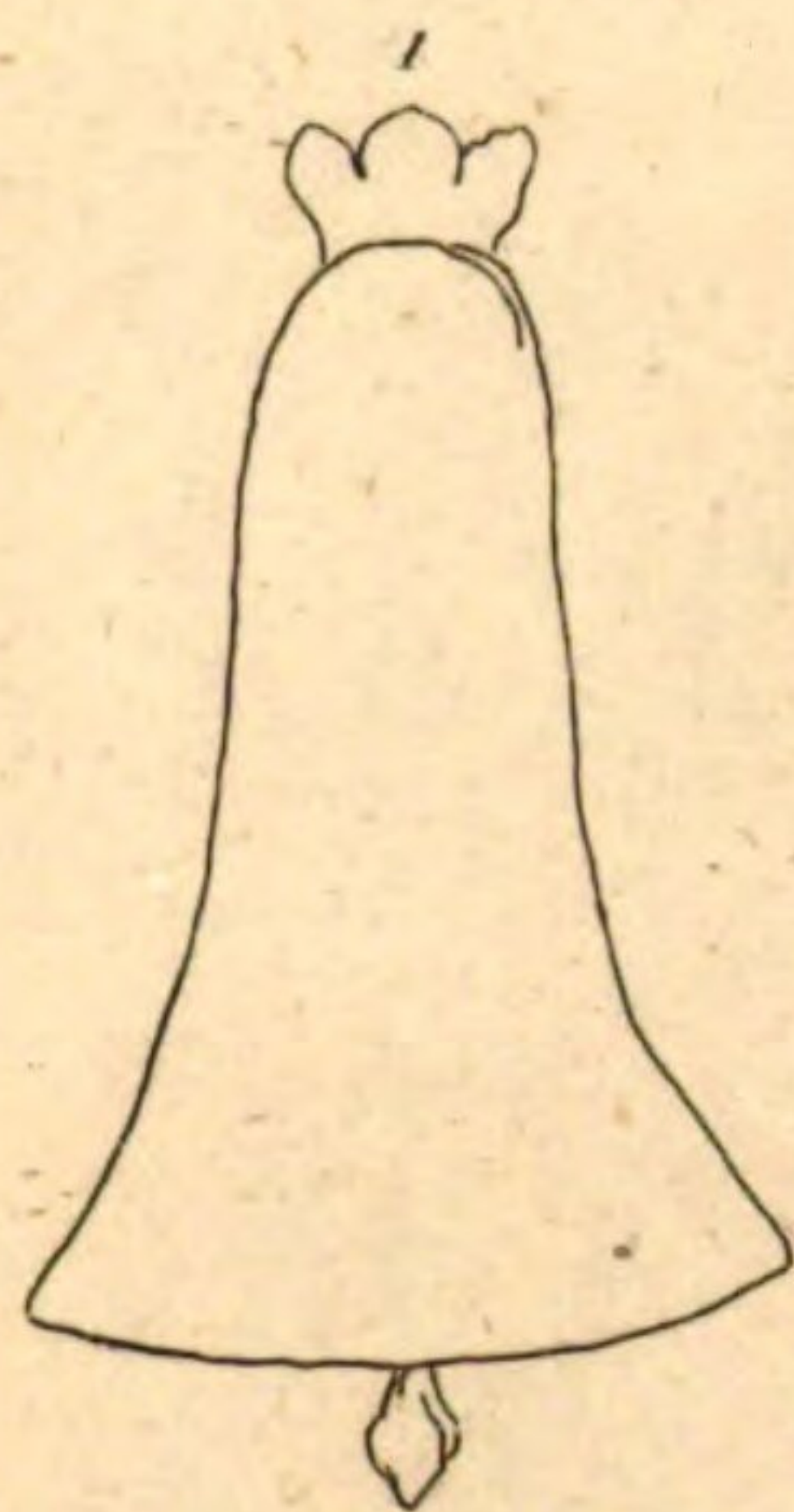
These Autographs were all copied from the Originals
 in April 1788 by the Editor

J^m Fenn

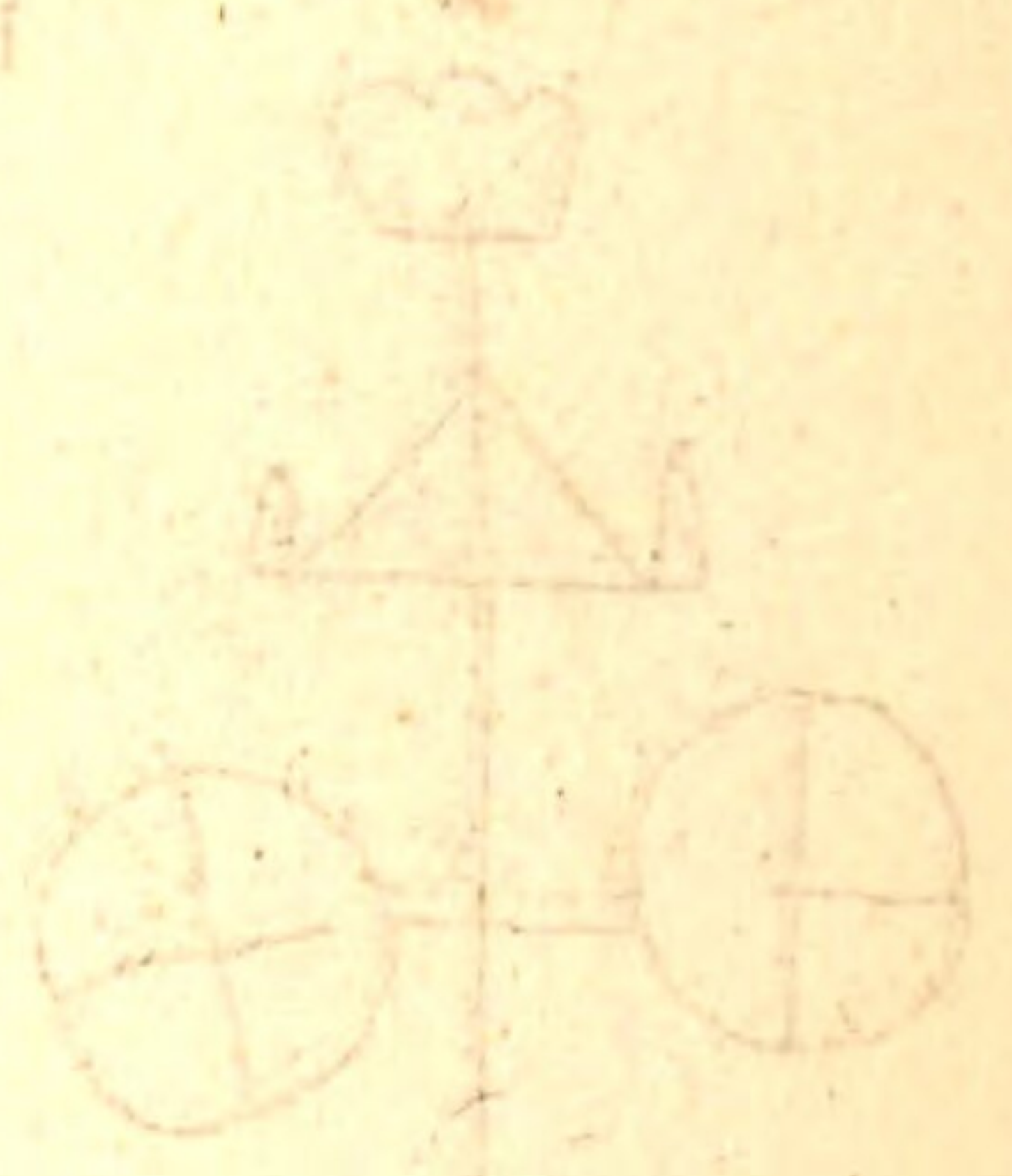
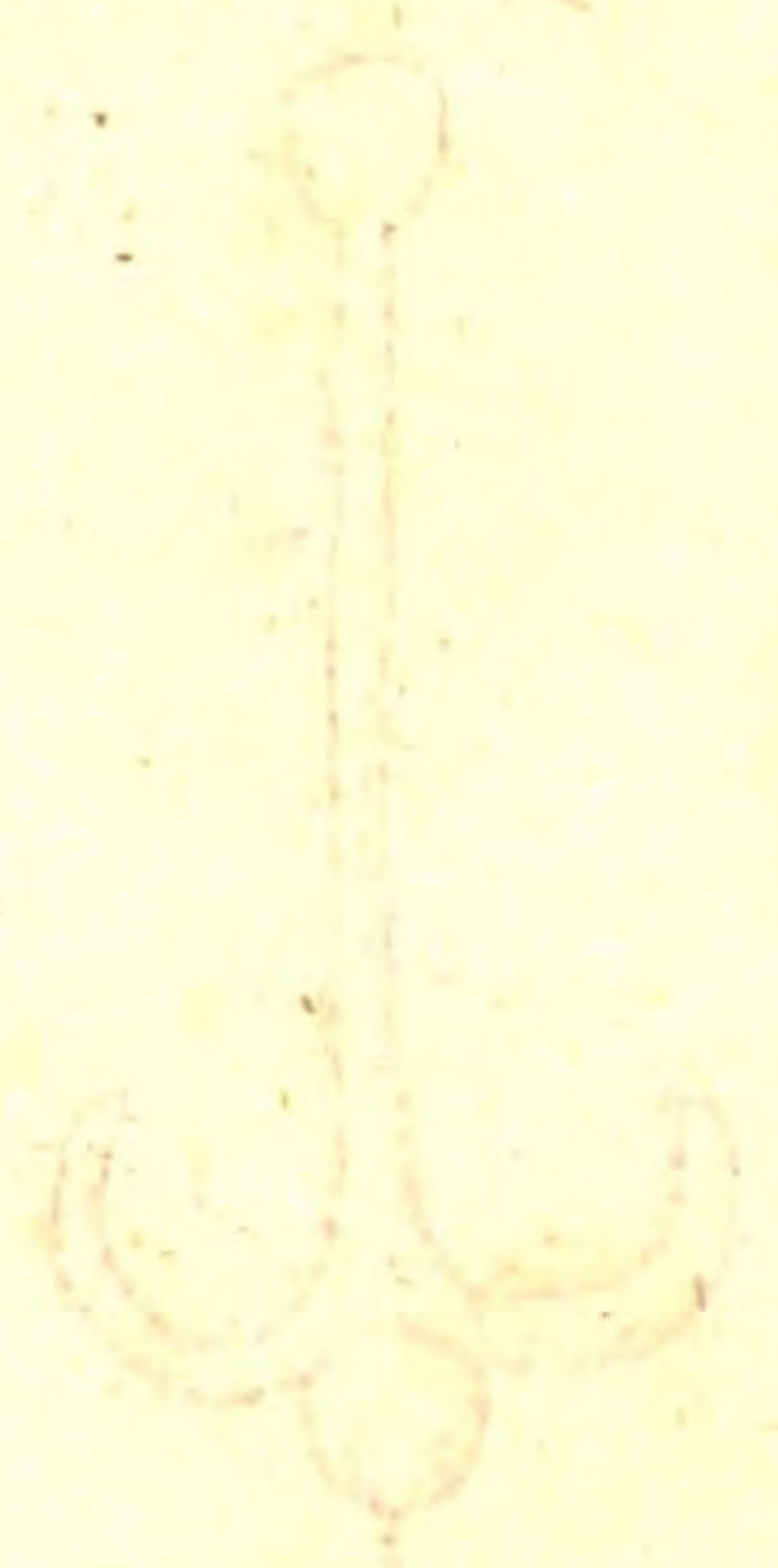


Paper Marks.

Henry VI.....1422 — 1460.

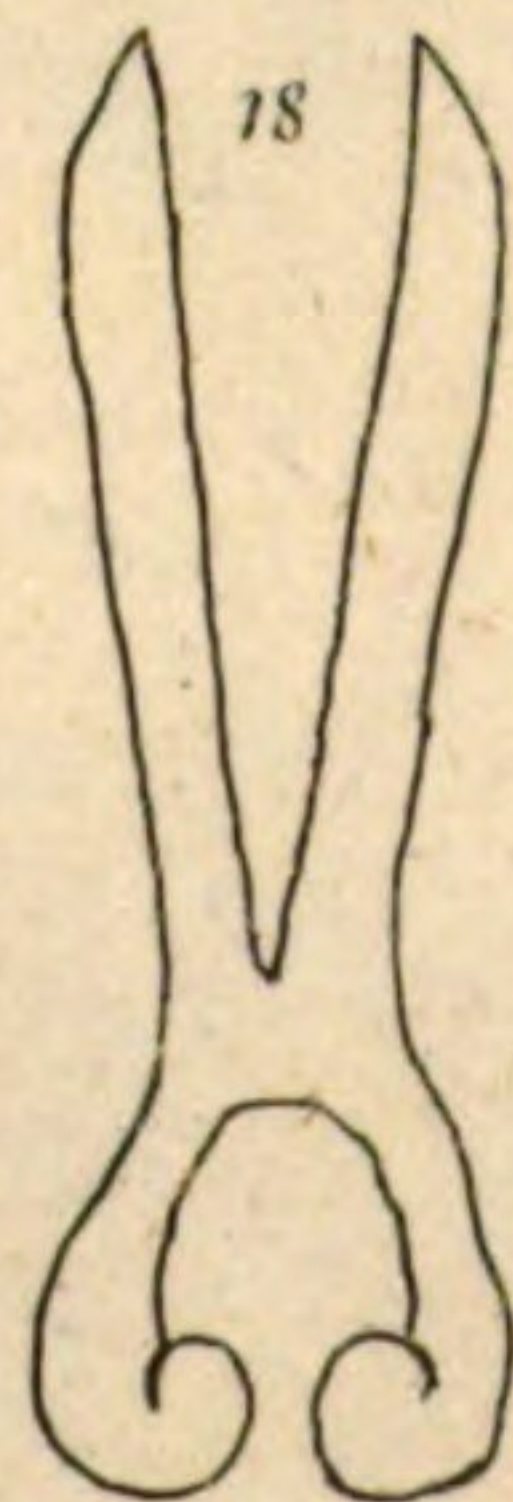
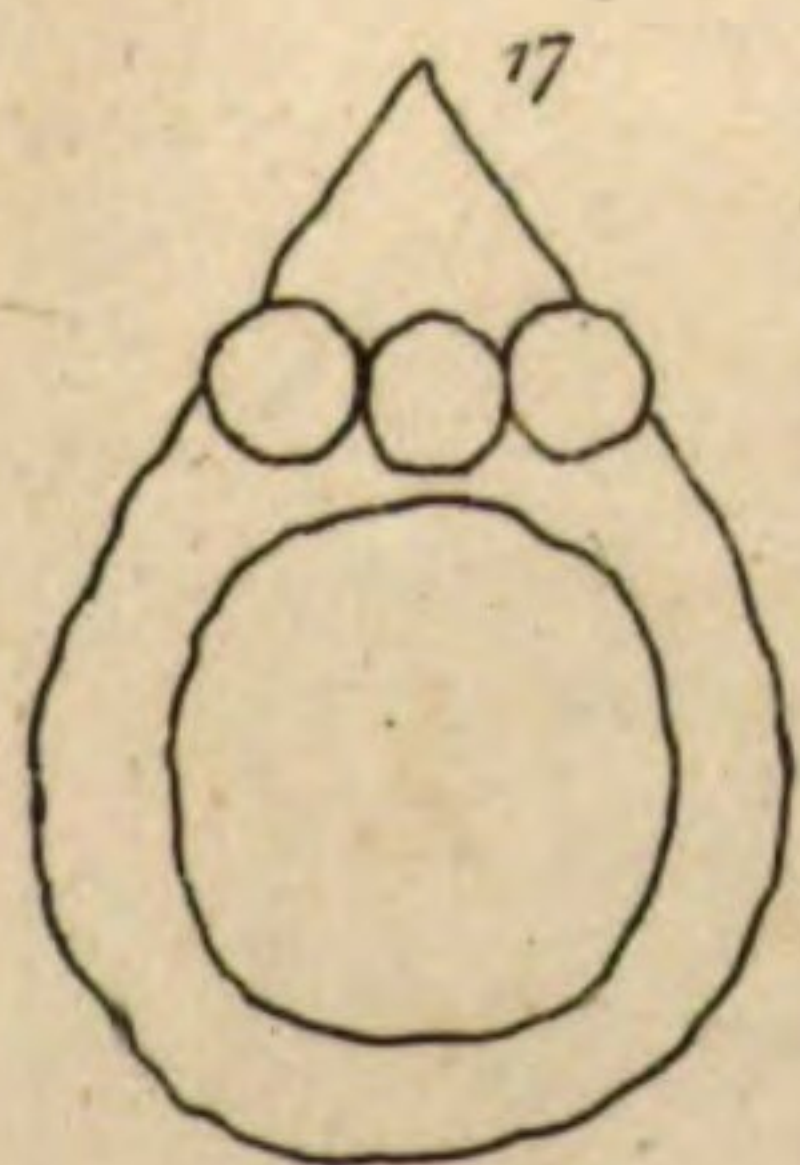
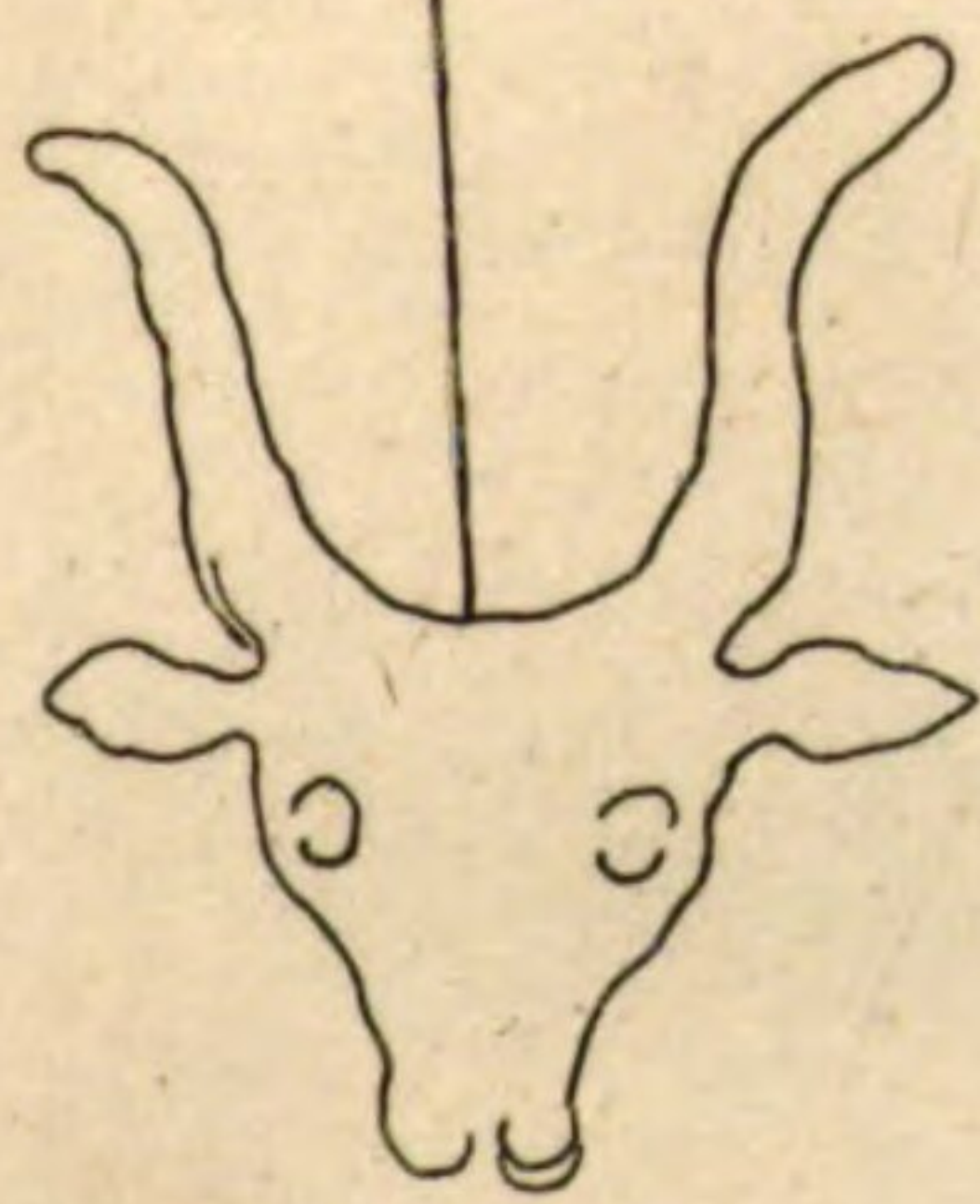
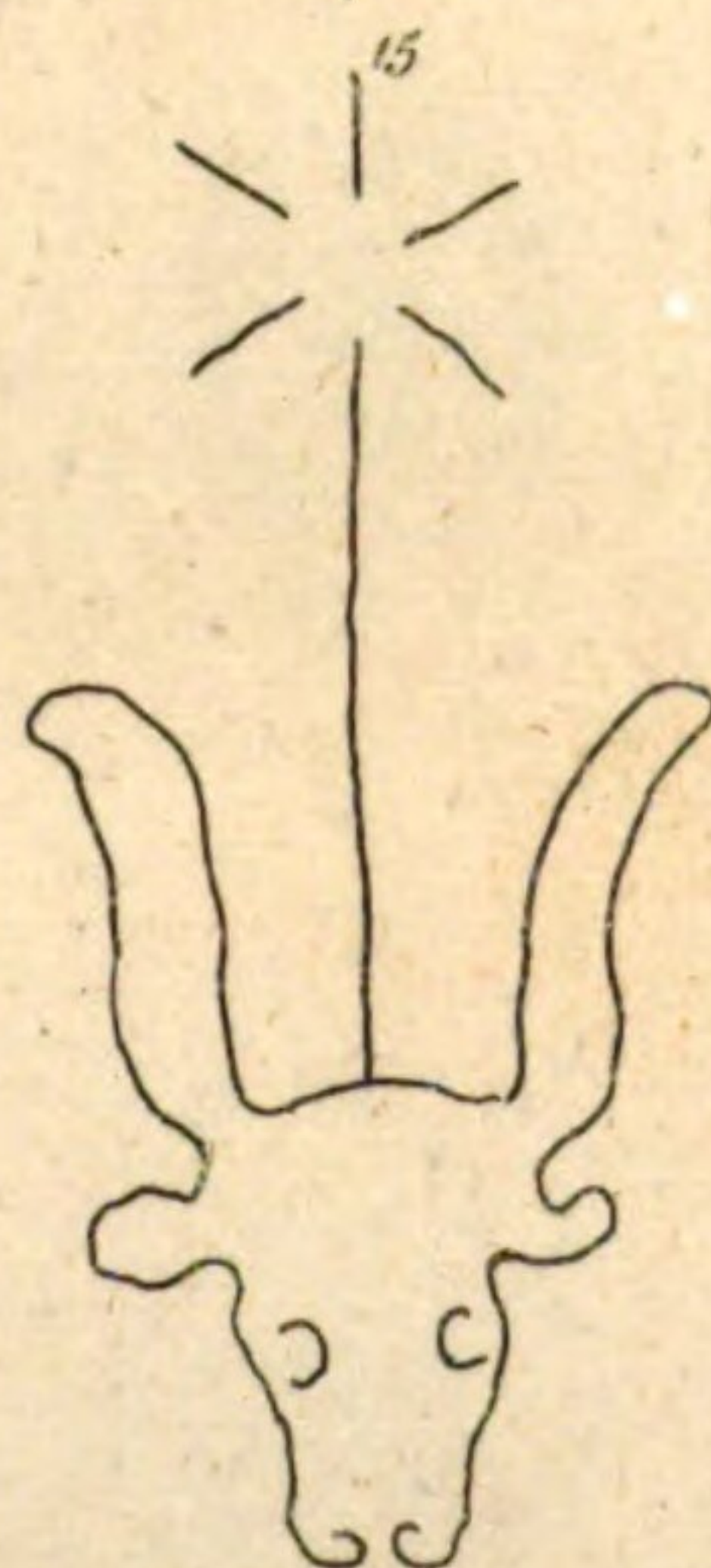
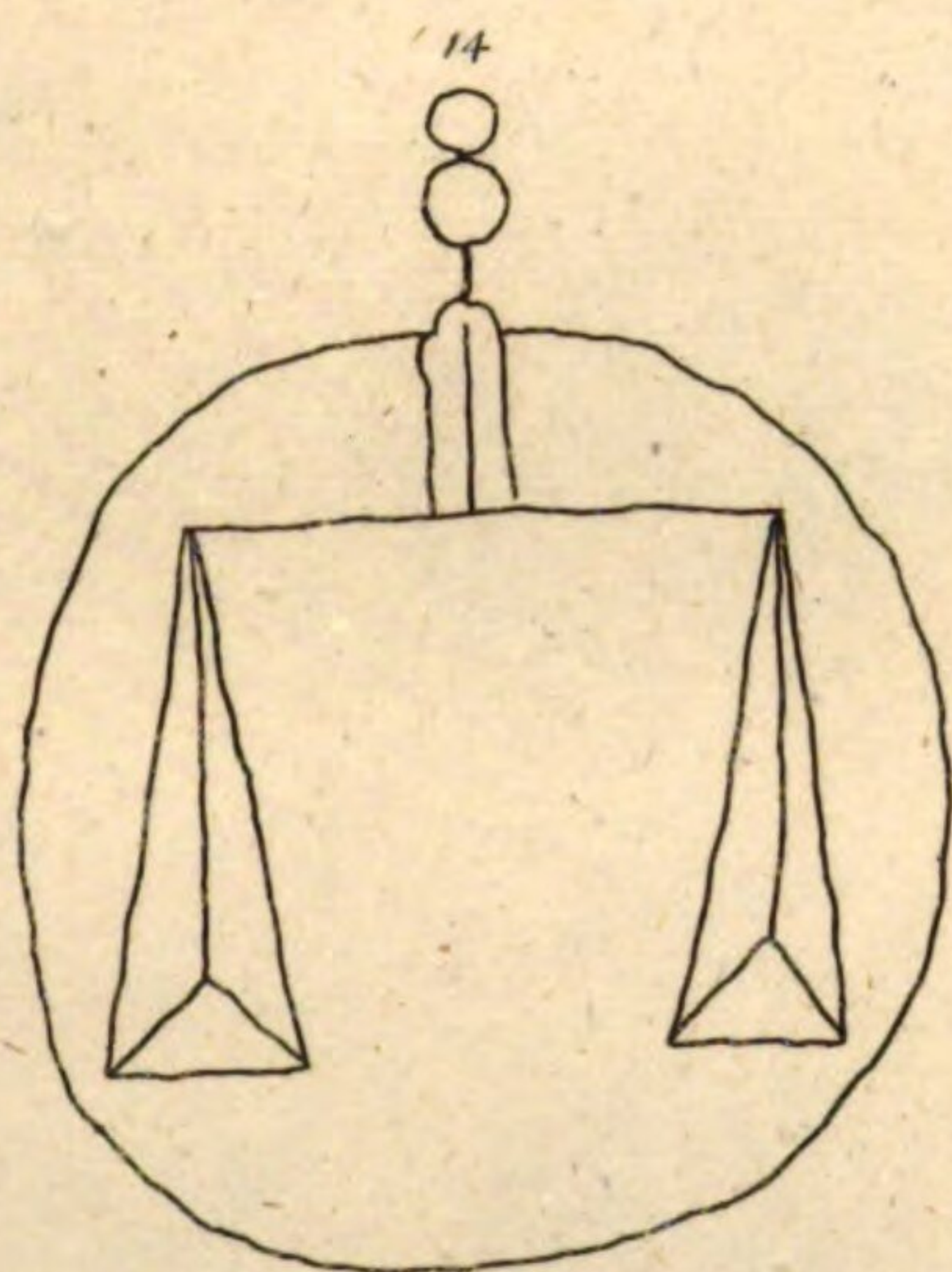
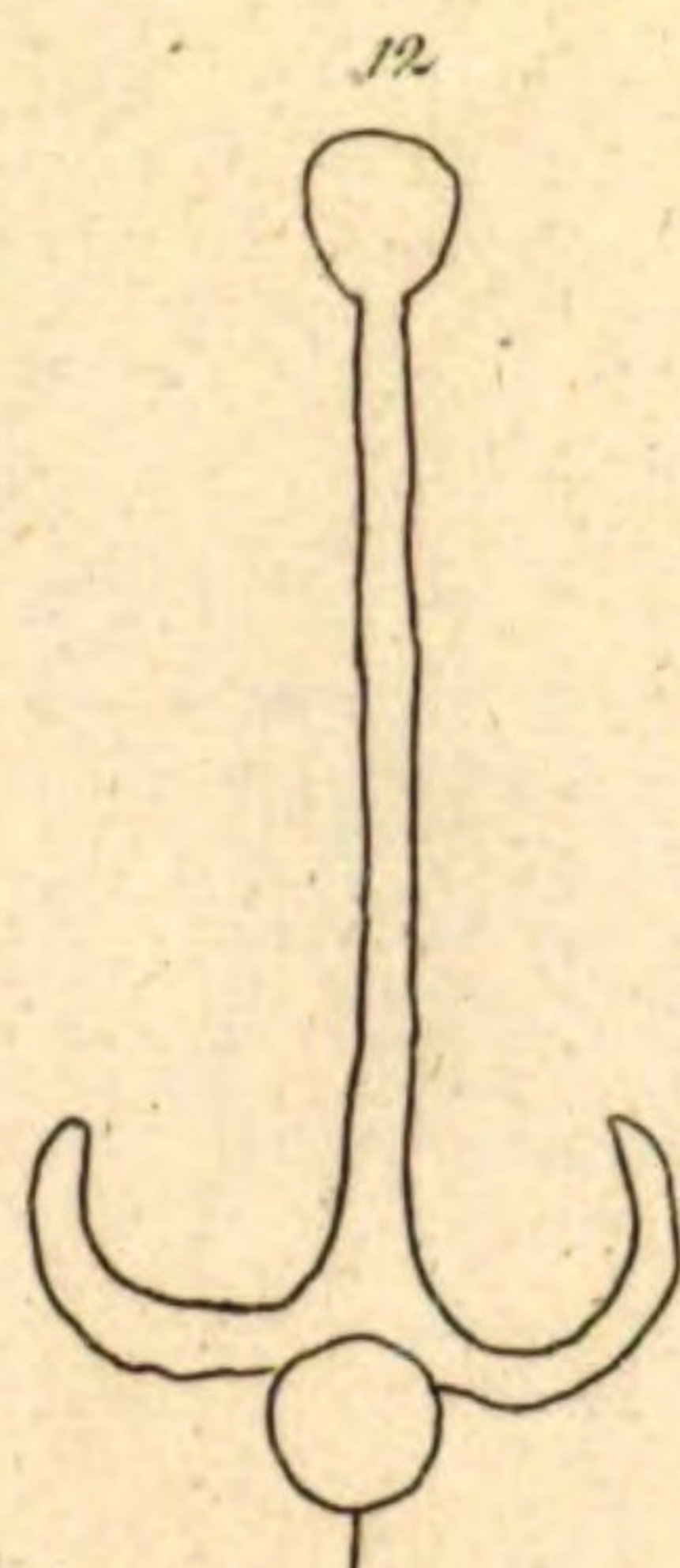
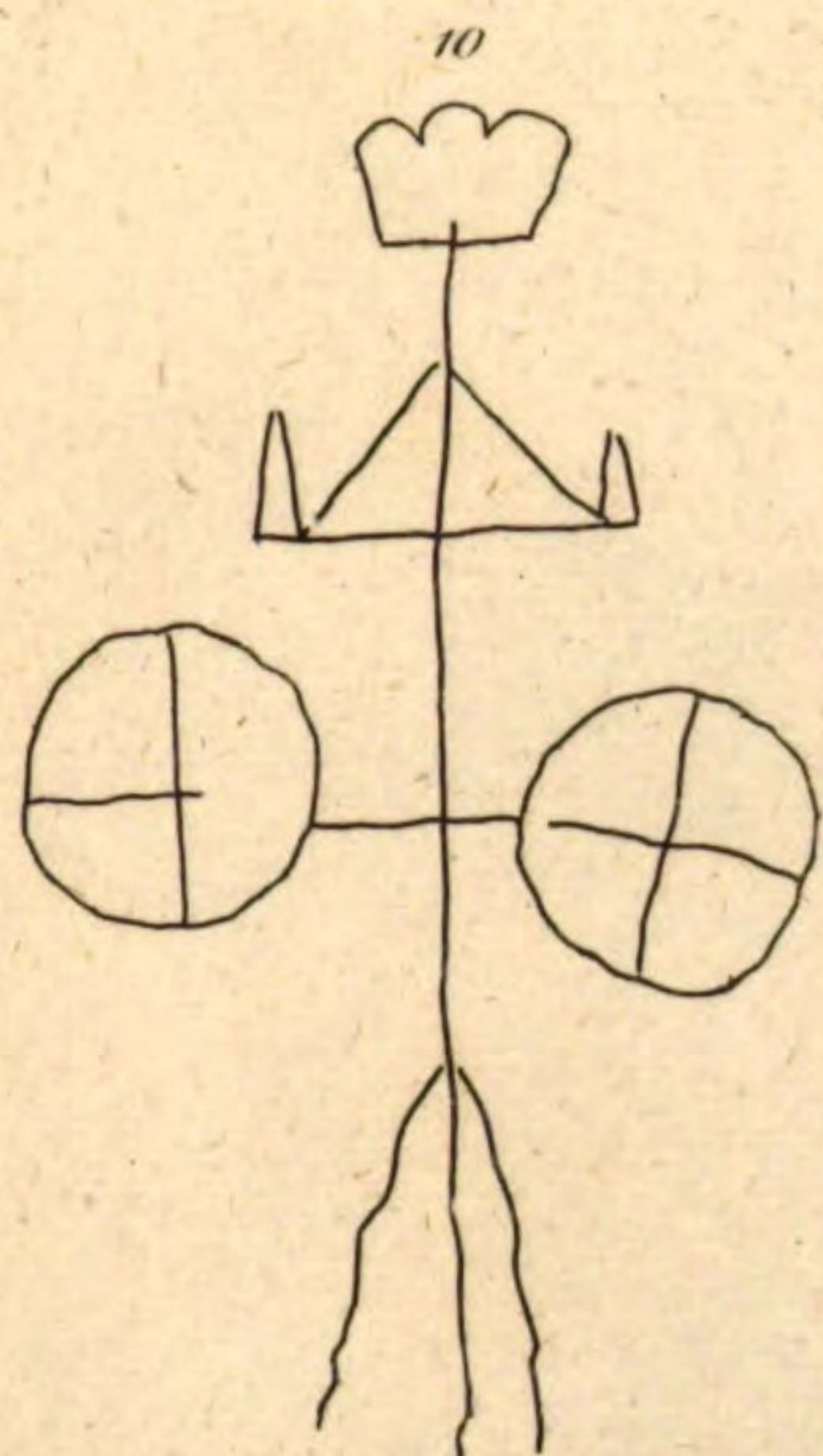


Henry VI
The Great

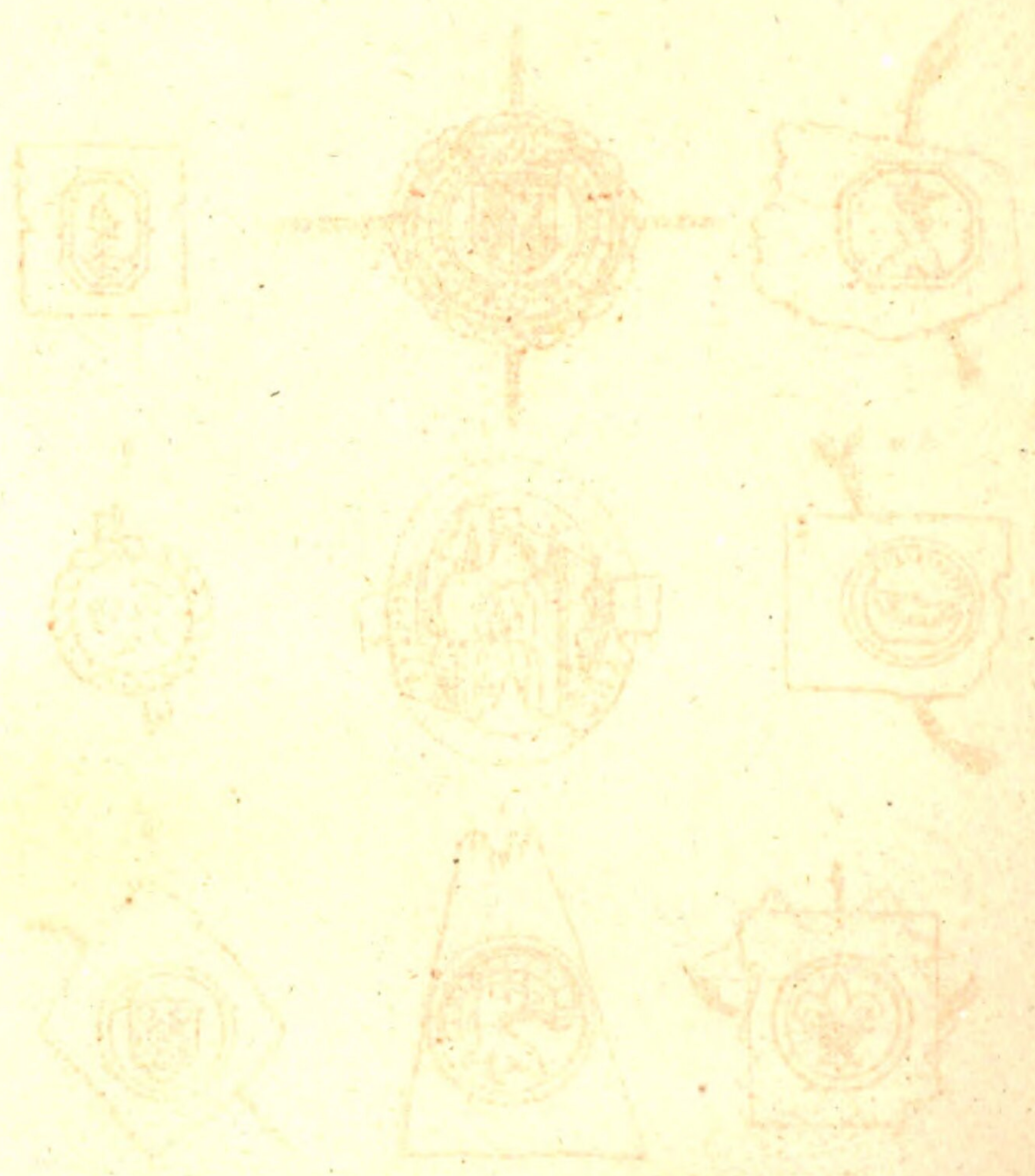


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Henry VI 1422 — 1460.

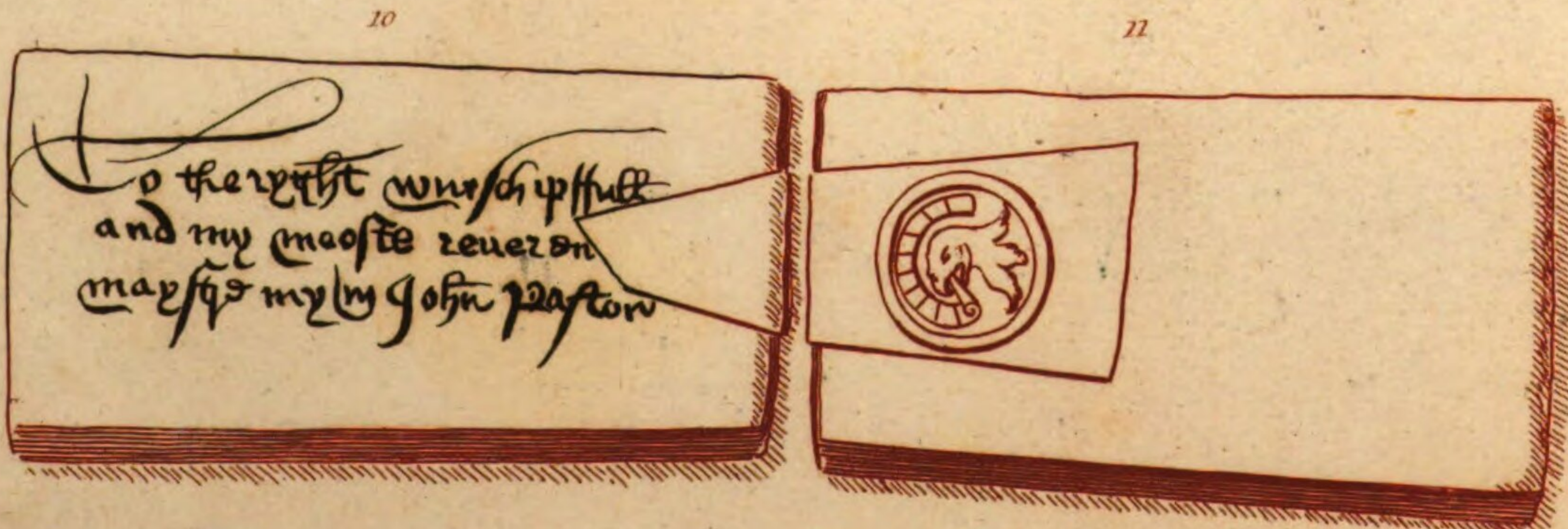
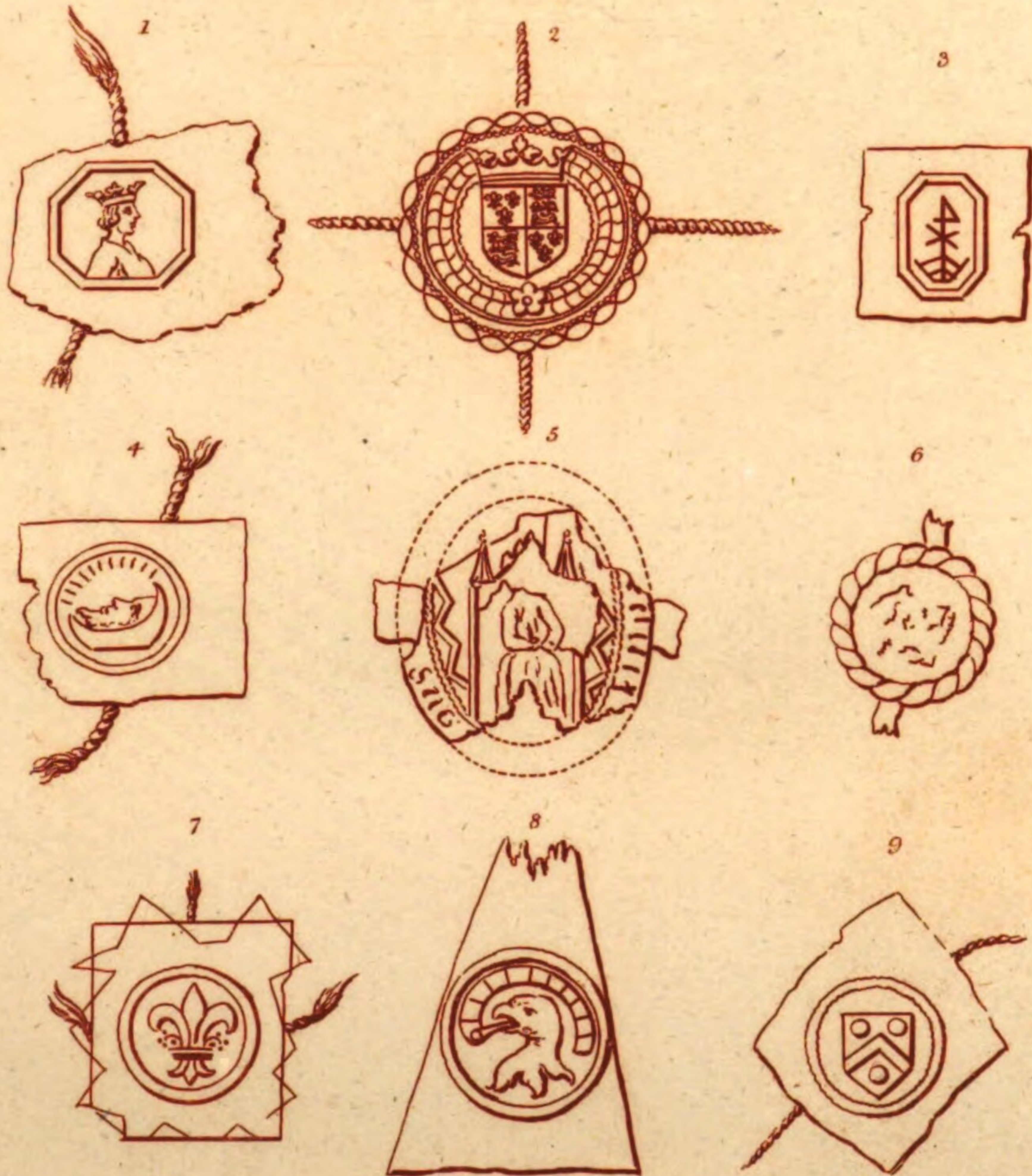


Alaska
1908



Seals.

Henry VI.



To the right worshipfull
and my maoste reueron
mayor my lord John paston

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Fenn, John

Original Letters written during the Reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV and
Richard III. by various Persons of Rank or Consequence

Bd.: 3. 1789

London 1789

4 Brit. 39 m-3

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